TWO EARLY MILLENNIUM BC WELLS AT SELSEY, WEST SUSSEX AND THEIR WIDER SIGNIFICANCE

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TWO EARLY FIRST MILLENNIUM BC WELLS AT SELSEY, WEST SUSSEX AND THEIR WIDER SIGNIFICANCE

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Two early first millennium BC assemblages from Selsey Bill are considered, one of Late Bronze Age date and one of Early Iron Age date. Detailed examination of two large features suggests both a common function for the features and a functional similarity between the sites to which they belong. Data from them are tested against a contemporary, regional database. In terms of site activity and settlement form, both belonged to the same cultural tradition. But differences in inter-regional relationships, outlook and resource strategies are identified. The change, paralleled on contemporary Sussex sites, is attributed to population growth and a filling-out of the landscape.

Recent excavation on sites of the early first millennium BC in southern Britain has emphasized the variety of different types of site and cultural adaptation, both in terms of environment and role. Inevitably, however, attention has focused on those characteristics which are distinct from those of preceding and later periods: the range of pottery shapes and forms,[1] new settlement types,[2] changes in metalwork and the manner and meaning of its deposition.[3] What is now needed is a unitary approach to the period.[4] Sites of differing character must be studied in both a local and a regional context. In this way it may be possible to identify their relationship to a wider, early first millennium BC cultural system.

In West Sussex, thirty-four sites have yielded pottery belonging to the post Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition (Appendix): one in the Weald, twelve on the coastal plain and twenty-one on the Downs (fig 1, b and c). Typological comparisons, mostly with material from outside Sussex, and a small number of radiocarbon dates, enable us to place this material into an approximate sequence. Exact chronology, however, is difficult to resolve. Firstly, owing to the manner of their excavation – usually either 'rescue' or antiquarian – the stratigraphic resolution of most West Sussex sites is poor. Secondly, there are few radiocarbon dates from sites of the period and some of these (eg, Harting Beacon)[5] are of questionable reliability. It is unclear if Deverel-Rimbury traits in Late Bronze Age assemblages reflect early post Deverel-Rimbury activity or late Deverel-Rimbury activity; while undecorated sherds from decorated assemblages and so-called Park Brow/Caesar's Camp group assemblages, may be indistinguishable from earlier, undecorated material. Thirdly, assemblages of all categories are small and, possibly, unrepresentative of the sites from which they were recovered. The total number of published, early first millennium BC sherds from sites on the Sussex Coastal Plain is fewer than that from the two sites considered here. As a result it has been difficult to integrate the data from Sussex with that from south-east England generally.

The two sites, Seaside Field and East Beach (fig 1c), contrast with most West Sussex sites in that they incorporated deep, well stratified features. It is possible to infer the function of these, to demonstrate how they were filled and to identify a number of activities represented by

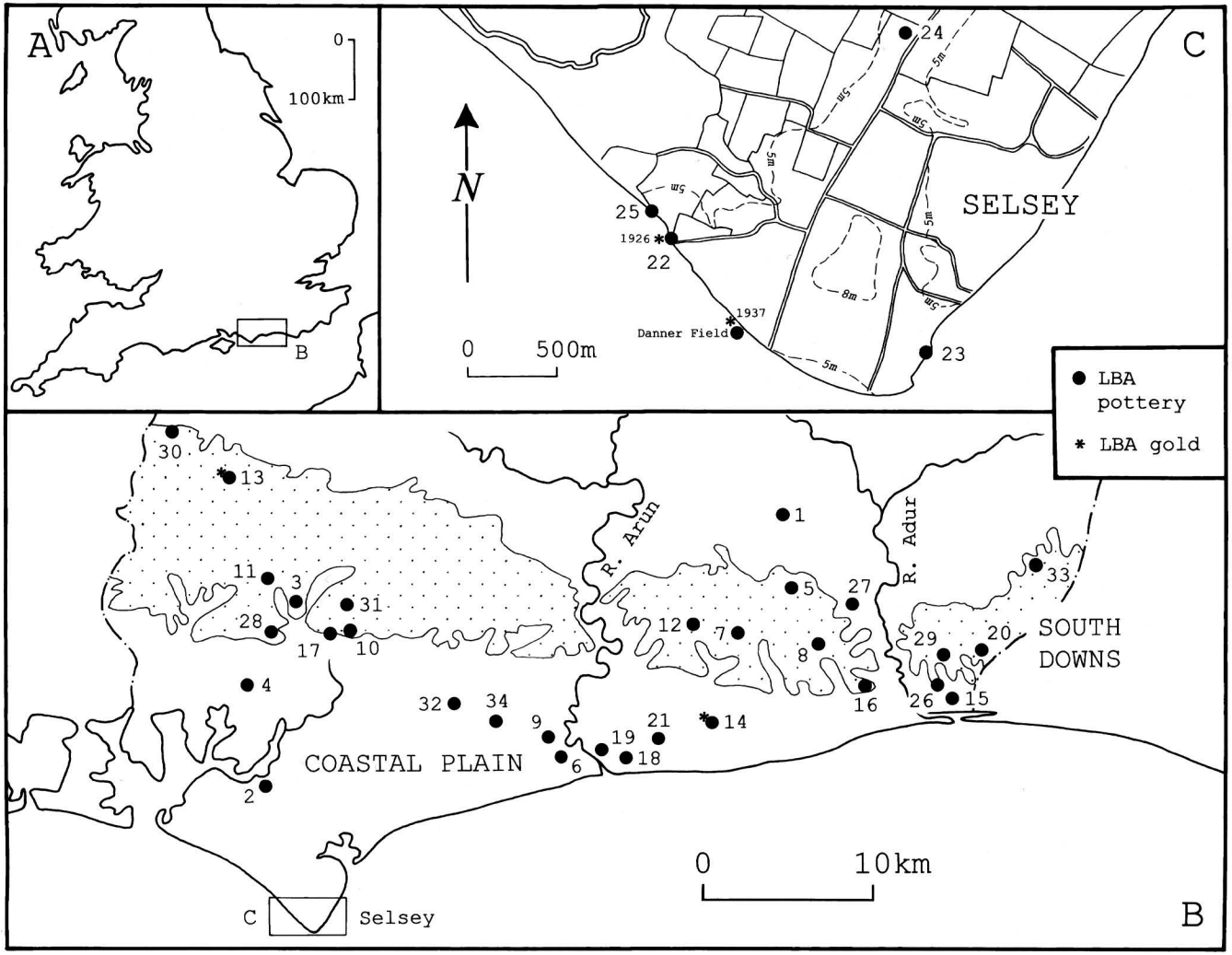

Fig 1. Site location. West Sussex early first millennium BC settlement (see Appendix for details). *Drawing*: author

their fills. Data of this sort are required in order to study on-site relationships; however, by enabling comparison with other sites, they are also the key to understanding the wider issues of date, settlement patterning and exchange. Seaside Field and East Beach provide a unique opportunity to examine early first millennium BC settlement in Sussex in a regional context.

The principal feature excavated at Seaside Field was excavated by hand. With the exception of unmodified, 'natural' flint gravels, all finds were retained, and their positions noted. Parts of three features were excavated. The situation at East Beach was different. Here more features were excavated but the recording of finds from them was limited. Few details of orientation or precise intra-context relationships are available and the sampling strategies of individual excavators are unknown. It is possible, therefore, that some finds were lost. Nevertheless, sufficient data for comparison is available from both sites.

SEASIDE FIELD

Stratigraphy

Seaside Field is one of two early first millennium BC sites exposed in a sea-cliff on the western side of Selsey Bill.[6] Archaeological features were cut into and – in the case of a very large pit – through drift deposits overlying the Selsey raised beach. The drift here is almost stone free, and the extent of features (and a plough-soil) is shown by the incorporation within them of stony material. Owing to the development of a *sol lessivé*, with a deep B horizon, stone free features can only be discerned at depth and it is likely that many have gone unrecognized. For this reason, the exact configuration of both sites remains unknown. The interface between the raised beach and the underlying bedrock – currently below the level of the modern beach – is marked by numerous erratics of non Selsey stone including chalk-flint, diorite, granite, greensand-chert and sarsen, and a series of clay and silt filled channels. These are important as a probable, ultimate source for many of the finds, including most of the stone tools and the potting clay. They also imply further, deep features, or the existence of an exposure similar to that which exists today.

Excavated Features

The principal feature investigated at Seaside Field was a large pit (pit 55). The exposed section was 2m wide. At its deepest point, its base was *c* 2.2m below the modern land surface and *c* 1.7m below the highest point at which its edge could be defined by excavation. The feature was excavated into the cliff face for 1.8m, by which point it had begun to narrow, and probing suggested its far edge lay close behind the section (fig 2). In profile, it was bell-shaped and round bottomed but it is clear that its original shape had been modified by undercutting and slumping (see below). Several fills were distinguishable, many inclined downwards from the edge of the cut. For the most part, this can be attributed to dumping or collapse from the edge of the pit. Fills 37 (not visible in fig 2) and 39 comprised a deposit of slumped 'natural' in which the relationship of the drift to the shingle of the raised beach survived. By contrast, context 79 appeared to be *in situ*, for no cut could be traced between it and the adjacent beach deposits. Fills 52 (not visible in fig 2) and 48, both comprising clast supported shingle, also resembled collapsed 'natural'. Although not level, three fills (43, not visible in fig 2, 47 and 49) of relatively clean, well-sorted silt or clay-silt of a similar thickness throughout appear to be

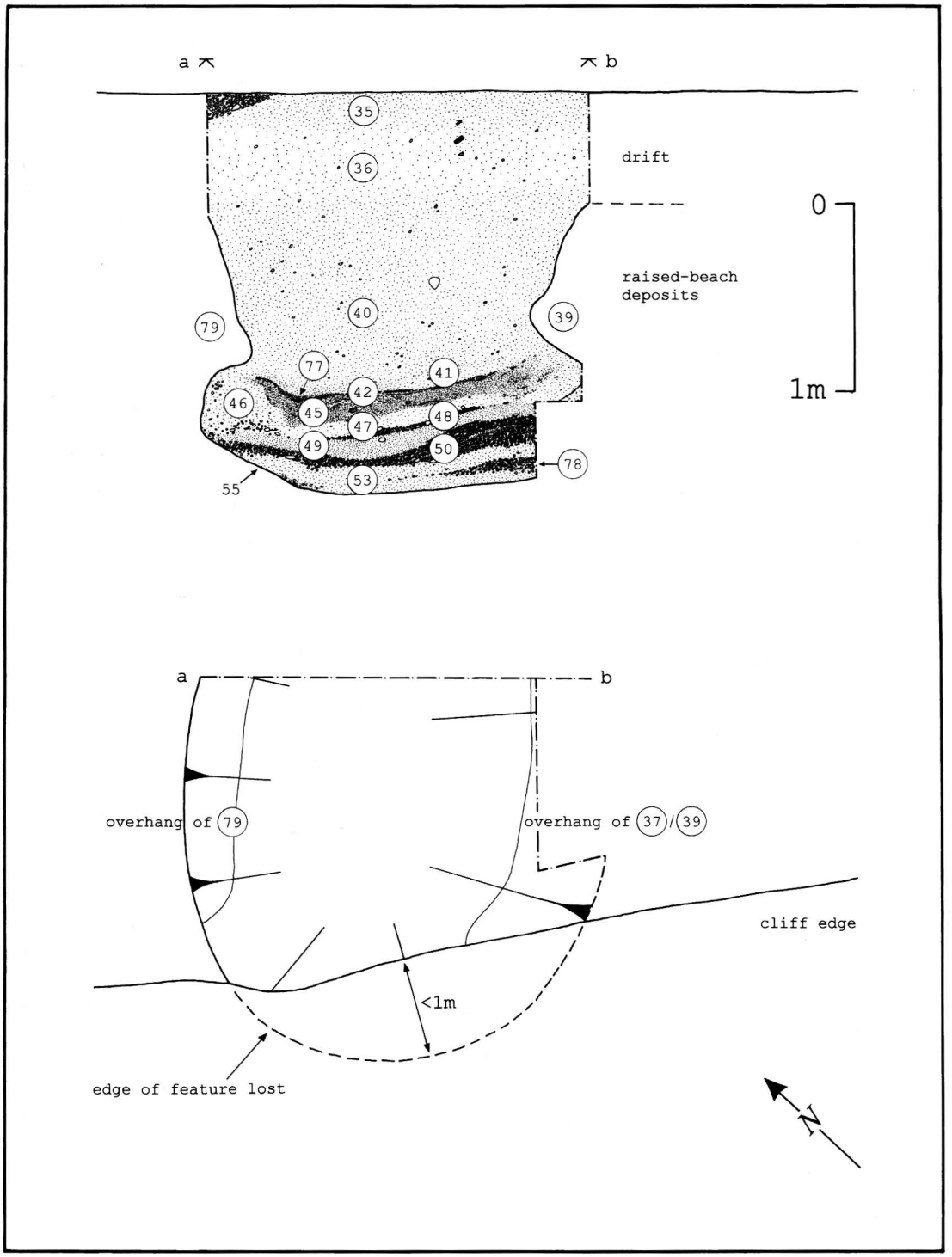

Fig 2. Seaside Field. Section and plan of pit 55. *Drawing*: author

water-lain. The rest were dumps or contaminated collapse material. Of these, fills 50 and 53 (both incorporating discontinuous charcoal, shingle and/or find-rich laminae), 45 (a dirty grey clay-silt) and 42 (wholly of charcoal-rich laminae) each represented several episodes. Pottery in these layers was aligned with them. Individual deposits of horizontally lying pottery and flint were also identified on the tops of fills 42, 47 and 50. By contrast the irregular orientation of pottery recovered from fills 36/40, and possibly 41, suggest that these comprised individual, bulk deposits. The interdigitation of material deposited from outside the feature and slump material, a build-up beneath the lips of 39 and 79, and the thinning of some layers beneath 39 and 79, indicate that both processes were occurring simultaneously.

The two other features investigated were a pit or ditch, *c* 1.2m deep, the fill of which yielded a few burnt flints and a sherd of probable Early Iron Age pottery, and an undated cremation identified as pre-modern because of its stratigraphic position beneath the plough-soil and the incorporation within it of numerous nodules of burnt 'natural'.

Interpretation

Pit 55 is interpreted as a well. The bell-shaped profile was formed when its original walls were undercut at the level of a layer of sand within the raised beach. Shingle, probably from the undercut, sloped downward from the new edge towards the centre of the feature (eg, fill 50). The most likely cause of this was water. Reconstructions of the Selsey coastline based on maps dating from the seventeenth century[7] allow for a much higher water table at Seaside Field than exists today and there is little doubt that pit 55 was waterlogged prior to, and during, filling. Its wet condition during the Bronze Age is indicated by the appearance of several fills which, as noted above, were characteristic of water-lain deposits, and the penetration of the upper surfaces of some of these (fills 49 and 53) by larger, clastic material derived from or forming part of subsequent deposits (48 and 50) (fig 2). At the very least, pit 55 was unsuitable for dry storage but, in terms of its size, morphology and the sandwiching within it of successive layers of fine and coarse sediments, it also resembled early first millennium BC features identified elsewhere as wells (eg, Stanwell, Surrey).[8]

Mode of Deposition

The large number of fills, the orientation of sherds within them and, in some instances, their separation from each other by deposits of varying colour and composition, showed that deposition in pit 55 was piecemeal. The lack of reworking indicates that they were protected, or deposited in a short period of time. The condition of the finds varies. Sherds from individual bowls and jars occur burnt and unburnt. Some vessels are more complete than others. Sherds from fill 36/40 are small, many are abraded, and there are few conjoins; sherds from underlying fills are larger, fewer are abraded, and there are many conjoins. This indicates the existence of an intermediate process involving abrasion and burning. More significantly, sherds from the same vessels occur in widely separated layers (table 1), suggesting possible temporary curation of some of material elsewhere, prior to deposition in pit 55 (cf Potterne, Wiltshire).[9] This interpretation, however, conflicts both with the evidence for piecemeal deposition and the interpretation of the feature as a well. More probably material broken at or in it was discarded nearby and only collected up when the feature was closed. This is represented by the final fill (36/40) which includes many small, abraded sherds and material from all stages in the life of the feature (table 1). The grey, finds

Table 1. Seaside Field. Finds from pit 55, showing relative abundance of finds and cross context relationships. Vessel counts based on earliest occurrence of distinguishable feature sherds. Contexts marked * include material from sieved bulk-samples

Fill/ context	Finds	Cross-context relationships
36/40*	Pottery (*c* 5 bowls, 1 cup, 8 jars); common burnt stone and struck flint; hammerstone fragment; stone pounder; crucible fragments with traces of slag and corroded copper/copper-alloy, primarily towards base; burnt ?natural; common wood charcoal towards base (including *Quercus, Tilia* and possibly *Betula)*; wheat grains (*T dicoccum*) and weed seeds (*Polygonum sp)*. Finds mixed.	Fills 41 and ?42/45 (vessel 23), 45 (vessel 43), 47 (vessel 6), 49 (vessels 4, 6 and 15), and 50 (vessel 6).
77	Rare struck flint and burnt stone; very common wood charcoal; nodules of burnt natural.	
37	None	
39	None	
79	None	
41*	Owing to diffuse interface, probably incorporates material from 40. Pottery (*c* 3 jars); occasional burnt stone and common struck flint; fragmentary spindlewhorl; fired clay rod; common wood charcoal (including *Fraxinus*); weed seeds (*Polygonum sp)*. Finds mixed. Burned and unburned finds touching. Includes sherds lying flat on 42.	Fills 40 and ?42/45 (vessel 23), and fill 45 (vessel 33; stone; fired clay rod).
42*	Pottery (*c* 2 jars); occasional struck flint; abundant wood charcoal (including *Fraxinus, Betula, Quercus, Tilia, P malus* or *P Communis* and *Alnus*); hazelnut; cereal grains (*H satirium* and *T dicoccum*) and weed seeds (*Polygonum sp*).	
42/45*	Pottery; abundant cereal chaff (not sought in individual samples from fills 42 and 45).	Fills 40 and 41 (vessel ?23)
45*	Pottery (*c* 3 bowls, 2 cups, 9–10 jars); very common burnt stone and struck flint; 2 hammerstones; hammerstone fragments; fragmentary spindlewhorl, stone pounder; quern fragment; fired clay rod; common wood charcoal (including *Quercus* and *Corylus*); hazelnut; unidentified barley (*Hordeum*) and wheat (*Triticum*) grains; rare – occasional calcined bone; raw, untempered clay. Finds mixed but in patches: fired clay object, pot and burnt stone in close physical contact. Includes sherds and spindle whorl lying flat on 47.	Fills 40 (vessel 43), 41 (vessel 33; stone; fired clay rod).
43	None	
46/47	Pottery (*c* 1 cup and 1 jar); rare struck flint and burnt stone.	
47	Pottery (*c* 1 bowls, 1 cup, 1 jar and 1 plate or dish); rare struck flint; much friable burnt ?clay, possibly daub, but resembling 'objects' in 41 and 45.	Fills 36/40, 49 and 50 (vessel 6).
48	None.	
49	Pottery (*c* 1 bowl, 1 cup, 3 jars); rare burnt stone and occasional struck flint; possible calcined bone; raw, untempered clay. Except for a single flint, all finds noted *in situ* lie flat on 50.	Fills 36/40 (vessels 4, 6 and 15) and 50 (vessel 6).
50	Pottery (*c* 2 bowls, 2–3 jars and 1 pan); rare burnt stone and struck flint; very common charcoal in two laminae; raw, tempered clay. Finds mixed. Vessel 6 lies horizontally *in* top of 50. Most sherds lie flat in charcoal laminae.	Fills 36/40, 47 and 49 (vessel 6).
50/52*	Rare burnt stone; very common wood charcoal (including *Quercus* and possibly *Salix*).	
52	None.	
53	Pottery (*c* 1 bowl and 1jar); rare burnt stone and common struck flint; decorated spindlewhorl; nodules of burnt natural; very common charcoal in patches and laminae (including *Quercus*).	
78	Pottery (1 jar); rare burnt stone and struck flint. Finds mixed.	

Table 2. Fabrics

Fabric	F	I	C
Maximum average flint size	1mm (coarse sand)	2mm (very coarse sand)	>2mm (granules)

rich fills 41, 42, and 45 represent a period between the end of the feature's use as a well and its closure. Prior to this time, fills were cleaner, and vessels – since they were not discarded in the feature deliberately – are fewer and only incompletely represented. The nature of the cross-context relationships and lack of characteristics suggestive of deliberate placement (such as whole pots, metalwork and 'individual layers dominated by a single category of finds'),[10] seems to rule out conscious ritual in the filling of the feature.

The Late Bronze Age Pottery Assemblage

Fabrics

The present study restricts itself primarily to distinguishing between vessels incorporating fine, intermediate and coarse flint-temper (F, I and C) (table 2). Sherds comprising more than 10 per cent flint temper are uncommon; usually it is much sparser (*c* 2–5 per cent). The range is characteristic of Sussex early post Deverel-Rimbury pottery. By contrast, local Deverel-Rimbury pottery is coarser (eg, from East Beach cut 77, fill 93, see below),[11] while that of the Middle Iron Age is characterized by a more restricted range (eg, North Bersted).[12] They are also distinct from non-prehistoric Selsey fabrics. Non-conforming fabrics are considered separately. These comprise a mica-rich fabric (M), a medium flint and mica-rich fabric (IM) and fine to coarse flint and granite tempered fabrics (FG, IG and G), all of which are thought to be Selsey products, and a fine oolite-tempered fabric (O), most likely imported from the west country. Owing to the low pH of the site, all sherds in the latter group have been decalcified, and the abundant temper survives only in the form of spherical hollows *c* 1mm in diameter. A few sherds are also very sandy (eg, fig 3.1). Owing to difficulties defining the exact limits of these wares, no attempt was made to quantify them separately. At East Beach, however, they dominate the assemblage and may indicate a different pottery procurement strategy to that which prevailed at Seaside Field. Neither shell- nor grog-tempered wares are present (cf Knapp Farm, Bosham, Ford and Golf Links Lane, Selsey).[13]

Typology

Unusually for a Sussex assemblage, the *c* 1100 sherds from pit 55 comprise the complete range of vessel types associated with the widespread post Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition.[14] Only Shinewater Park on the Willingdon Levels in East Sussex has yielded a comparable assemblage.[15] Although it is impossible to identify the exact role of any vessel with certainty, the range of types and fabrics indicates that pottery was used in a variety of ways, including the storage, preparation and presentation of food. Those from fills 41–5, thought to be unrelated to the use of the feature, are most likely to represent everyday domestic wares (figs 4–6). A

major use – indicated by a preponderance of vessels with flaring necks – may have been drawing water from the well.

INTERMEDIATE AND COARSE WARE JARS

Where reconstructable, the principal jar form is round-shouldered. Most flare at the neck and have flattened (or squared), slightly expanded rims (fig 7.70). The necks of many, irrespective of finish, are finger pinched (fig 4.31, 6.44, 7.52) and vessels with sharp exterior carinations are often fingered inside (fig 7.58). Deliberate body decoration includes impressions made with a fingernail or a tool of circular or rectangular section, in or slightly below the neck (figs 3.18, 4.23, 4.25), a fingertip impressed cordon (fig 4.24), and fingertip impressions on the body/shoulder (eg, fig 3.11). One has been impressed with a small bone just above the shoulder (fig 3.10). Usually, where decoration is on the carination, the neck is only slightly flared (figs 4.21, 8.67). A single vessel displays clear vertical finger furrowing (fig 5.40). Rim decoration comprises cabling (impressing the flattened rim with a finger or thumb) and cut decoration. All vessels decorated in this way appear to be at the upper end of the size range and many of the rims have sagged prior to, or during firing. Vessel 46 is so wide-mouthed it is almost without a shoulder (fig 6). Cut decoration appears to have been made with a broad edged tool or, perhaps, a fingernail. One vessel is slashed across the rim (fig 4.31) and another along it (fig 3.18). Bases are flat, either expanded (figs 4.22, 5.32), straight (fig 6.46) or out-curving (fig 7.58) and one finger pinched (fig 7.59). Two unillustrated sherds with profusely gritted surfaces may also be bases (context 36/40). All but one of these vessels (vessel 46) is roughly finished, either finger smeared or, in one or two cases, brushed or wiped. A further jar type is represented by a single vessel with a high, rounded shoulder, no neck, and an internally bevelled rim (fig 8.6). A sherd which may belong to its base is flat and straight sided (fig 7.62). The wide-mouthed vessel 6 (figs 3.6, 8.6) which was both burnished and unoxidized on the inside, is likely to have used for the storage of liquid.[16] Sherds from it were both burnt and unburnt. Several vessels (including vessels 6 and 46) are unusually large.

FINEWARE JARS

Several burnished finewares are of the same general form. These include two small vessels (figs 3.16, 4.29), one of which has a prominent, externally expanded rim. There is also a larger jar (fig 5.34) which is decorated with impressed furrows on its neck and upper shoulder and, below these, a line of slightly rounded, rectangular impressions. The nature of the tool used is unknown. Unillustrated sherds from below the shoulder of a vessel in an identical fabric are decorated with 30mm wide, horizontal faceting. Three further vessels, though intermediate wares in terms of their fabric, are well finished and should perhaps be included here (figs 3.12, 4.27, 4.28). Two of these (vessels 27 and 28) are the only jars in the assemblage to have rounded rims. Vessel 27, which was burnt after breakage, is best reconstructed as an angular, tripartite shouldered jar.

COARSE AND INTERMEDIATE WARE BOWLS

A single, thin-walled hemispherical bowl, has an upright, slightly squared rim (fig 4.26). A second bowl is much thicker bodied. It is shouldered, wide-mouthed, and has a flaring neck with obvious finger pinching inside and out (fig 8.65). Both appear originally to have been oxidized. Compared to the fineware bowls described below these vessels are crudely finished and presumably they performed a different role. Although each is represented at Seaside Field by a single vessel only, both are common in post Deverel-Rimbury assemblages.

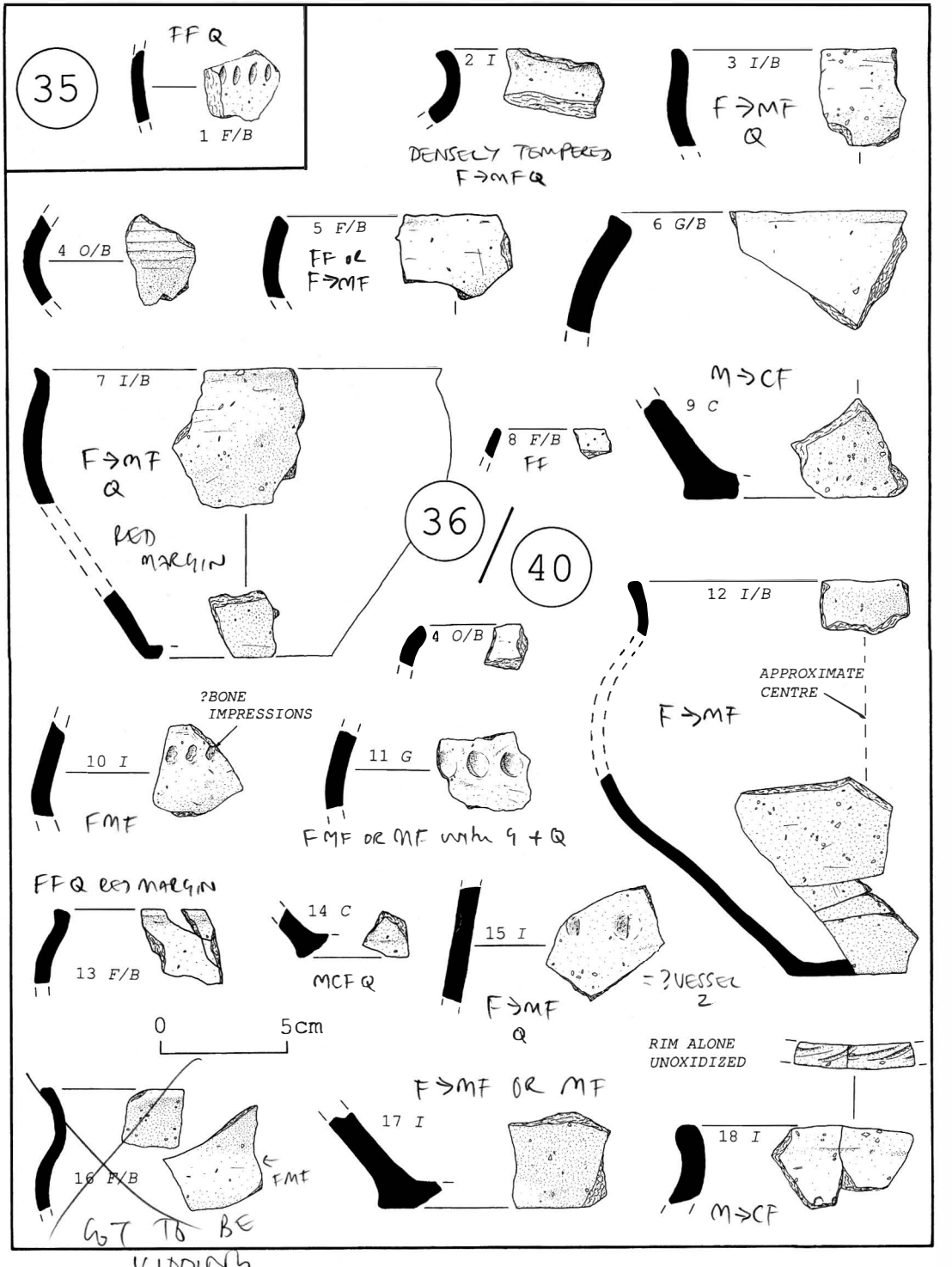

Fig 3. Seaside Field. Stratified Late Bronze Age pottery. B = burnished, C = Coarse, F = fine, G = granitic, I = intermediate, O = oolitic. *Drawing*: author

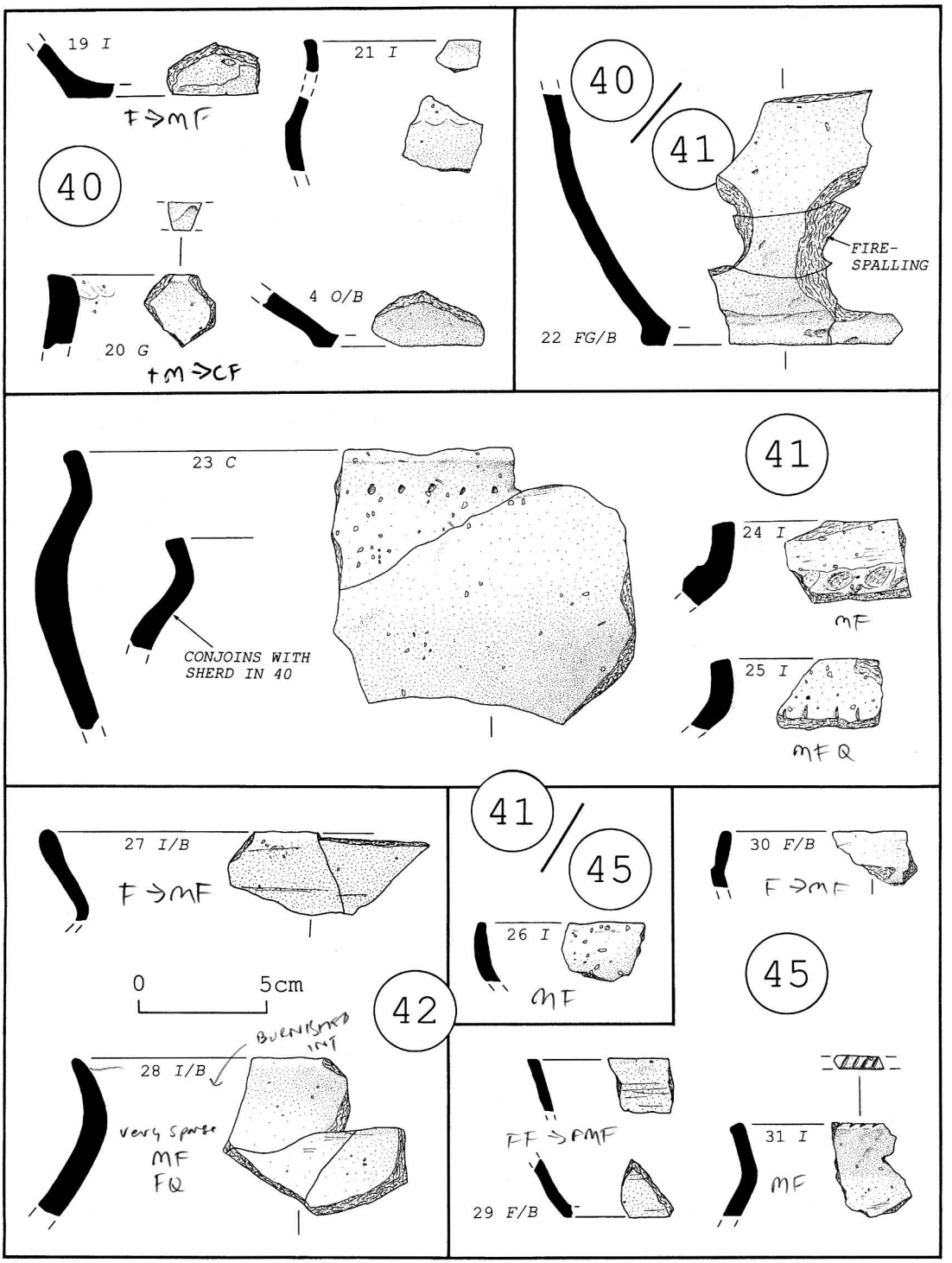

Fig 4. Seaside Field. Stratified Late Bronze Age pottery. B = burnished, C = Coarse, F = fine, G = granitic, I = intermediate. *Drawing*: author

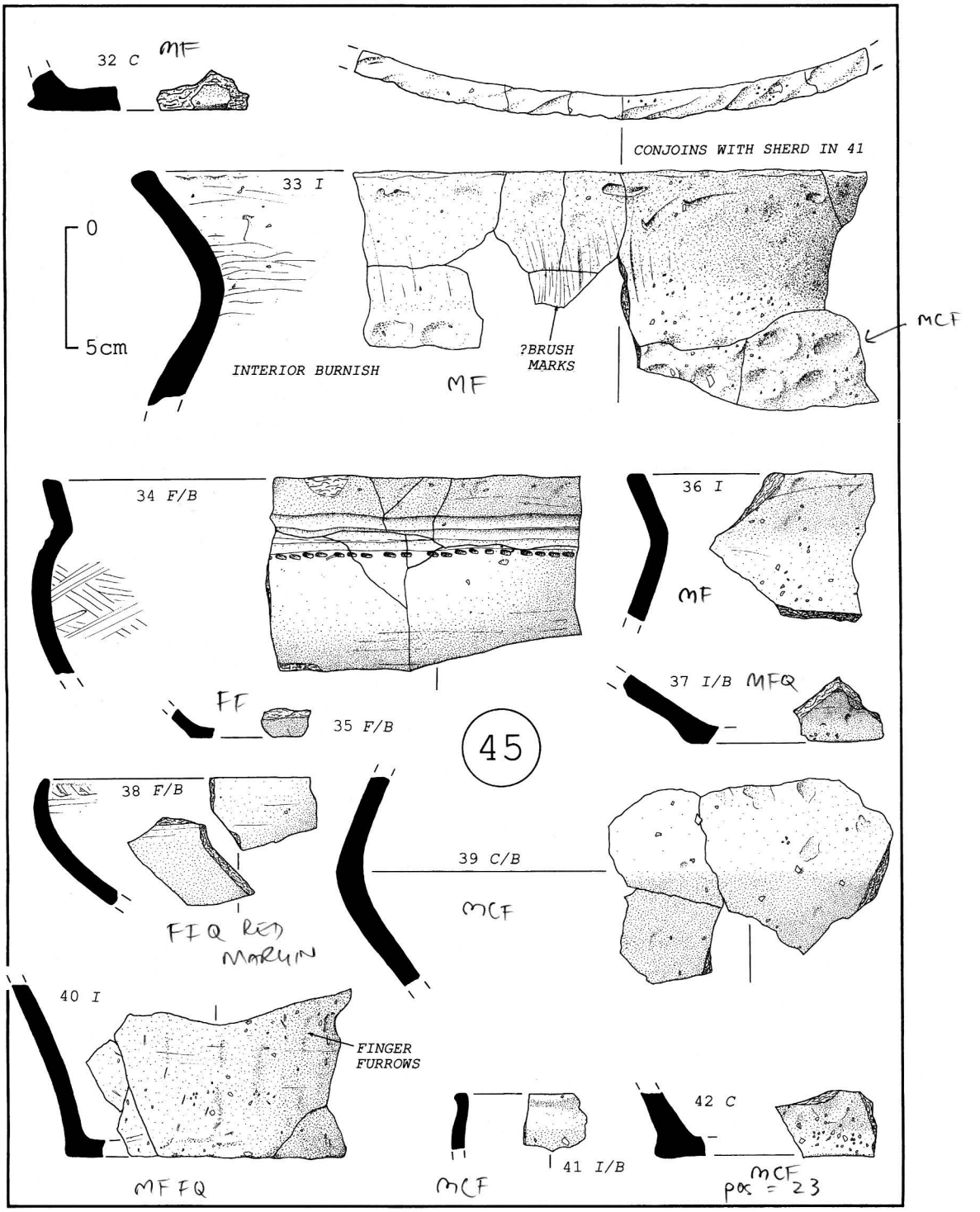

Fig 5. Seaside Field. Stratified Late Bronze Age pottery. B = burnished, C = coarse, F = fine, I = intermediate. *Drawing*: author

FINEWARE AND OTHER BURNISHED BOWLS

None of these are decorated and most are unoxidized. There are three types. Firstly, bipartite bowls have slightly inturned or upright necks (figs 3.5, 8.64), rising 20–30mm above what is frequently a sharply carinated shoulder. Both convex and slightly concave necks occur (fig 3 nos 3 and 5). No complete profile can be reconstructed but comparisons with vessels from other sites (eg, West Blatchington and Minnis Bay)[17] suggest that most have flat, straight sided or out-curving bases (fig 5.35). All of the Seaside Field examples have flattened rims, with or without an internal bevel (figs 6.49, 8.64). One vessel has a prominent externally expanded rim (fig 8.68, cf fineware jar fig 3.16 above). One sherd of this vessel is burnt, the other is not. Secondly, fineware hemispherical bowls with slightly inturned rims which are rounded and taper slightly. Of the two definite examples (figs 5.38 and 7.61), vessel 38 has an unoxidized interior and an oxidized interior; while the exterior of vessel 61, which was burnt after breakage, is partly oxidized. No identifiable bases survive but comparisons with vessels on other sites, particularly on the continent (eg, Koblenz),[18] suggest that they may either be flat or omphalos. Another rim sherd is too small to reconstruct with confidence (fig 3.8) but it too may belong to a hemispherical bowl. Also present are sherds from a high, round shouldered bowl with a flat, slightly everted and internally bevelled rim, and a flat, straight sided base (fig 3.7). Both of those illustrated have a slight blush.

FINE AND INTERMEDIATE WARE CUPS

Two cups can be identified with certainty. Both are burnished. The finest is oxidized and has a globular profile with a thin, everted and internally bevelled rim (fig 6.48). A similar vessel from Maidenhead has an omphalos base.[19] The other is coarser; less of its profile can be reconstructed, but its rim is flat-topped and slightly everted (fig 5.41). Both of these are likely to be drinking vessels. There are also two smaller sherds: one (unoxidized) has an externally expanded rim with a slight internal bevel (fig 7.51) and another has a slightly everted and internally bevelled rim (fig 7.55). Vessels 41 and 55 have been burnt and it is not possible to identify their original colour.

ASSIETTE TRONCONIQUE

One vessel is in an intermediate fabric with a flat, externally expanded rim and a flaring profile (fig 7.56). Its exterior surface is oxydized and its interior surface is unoxydized. Both are burnished, but, typically for such vessels, its interior surface is better finished.[20]

PAN

A coarseware vessel, the base of which appears to have been perforated prior to firing, with a flat, expanded base, and a squared rim (fig 8.66). Internally it is burnished and unoxidized, externally it is oxidized. This vessel is without parallel in early post Deverel-Rimbury assemblages.

FURROWED BOWL OR JAR

All sherds in fabric O are burnished and most are unoxidized. They derive from one or possibly two vessels (it is not clear if the oxidized sherds have been burnt or belong to a vessel which was fired differently). The illustrated sherds probably belong to a single vessel. Owing to their small size, it is difficult to reconstruct this with certainty, but it appears to have had a diameter at the shoulder of 200–50mm. The rim is either inturned with a pronounced internal bevel or, perhaps more likely, flared with an external bevel (fig 3.4), the base slightly expanded (fig 4.4), and the shoulder sharply carinated (fig 3.4). Immediately above the shoulder, it is

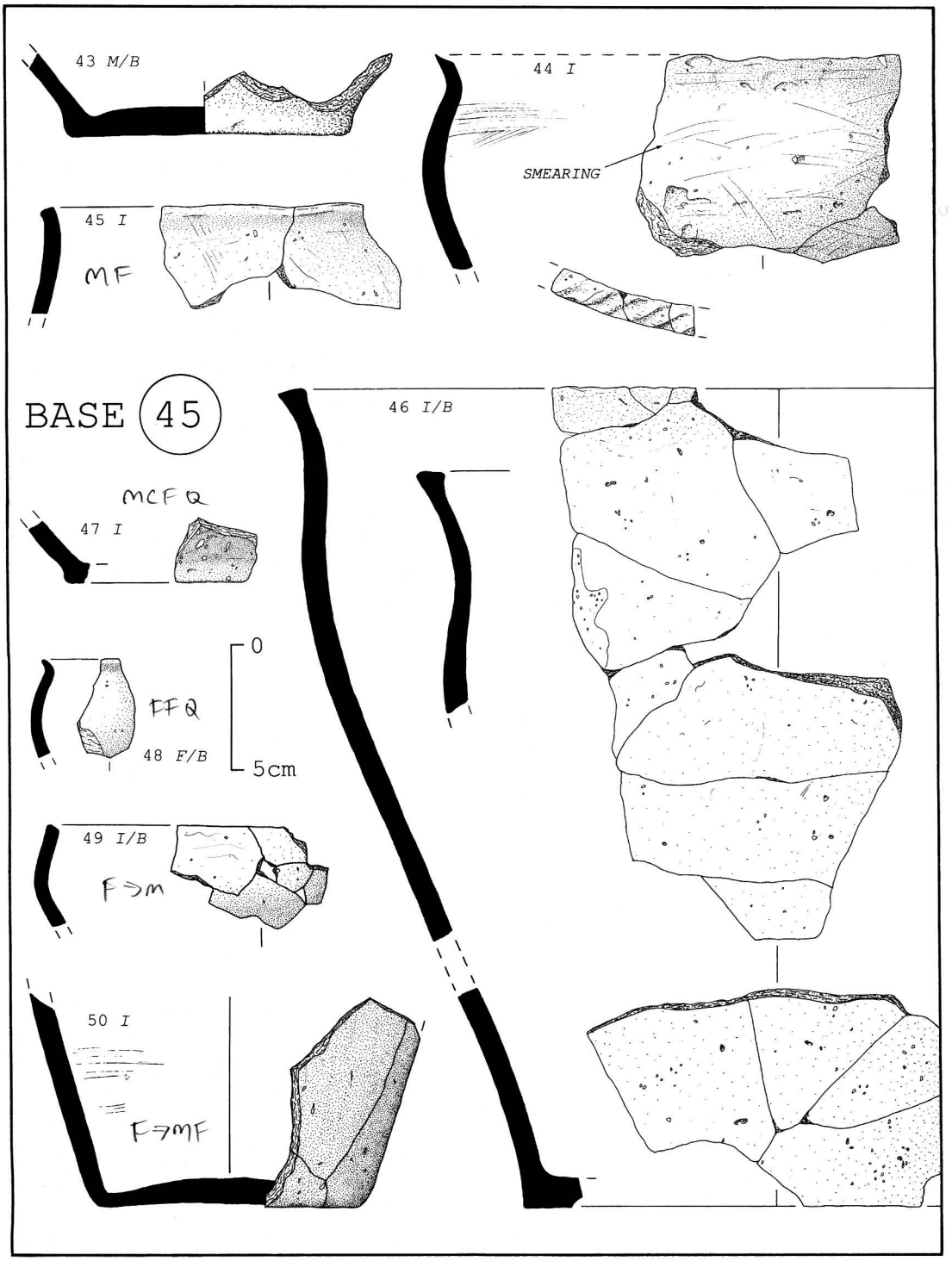

Fig 6. Seaside Field. Stratified Late Bronze Age pottery. B = burnished, F = fine, I = intermediate, M = mica. *Drawing*: author

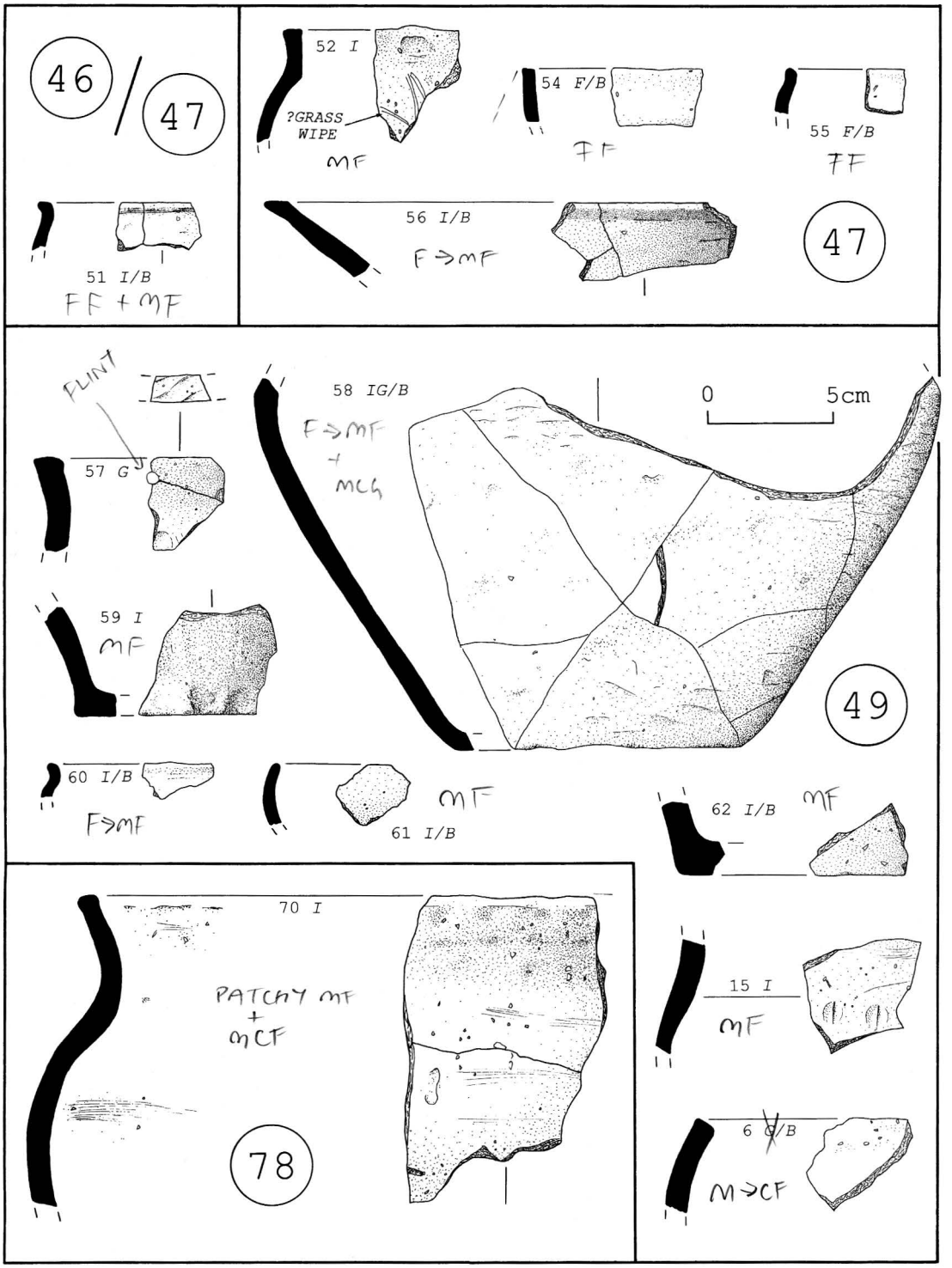

Fig 7. Seaside Field. Stratified Late Bronze Age pottery. B = burnished, F = fine, G = granitic, I = intermediate. *Drawing*: author

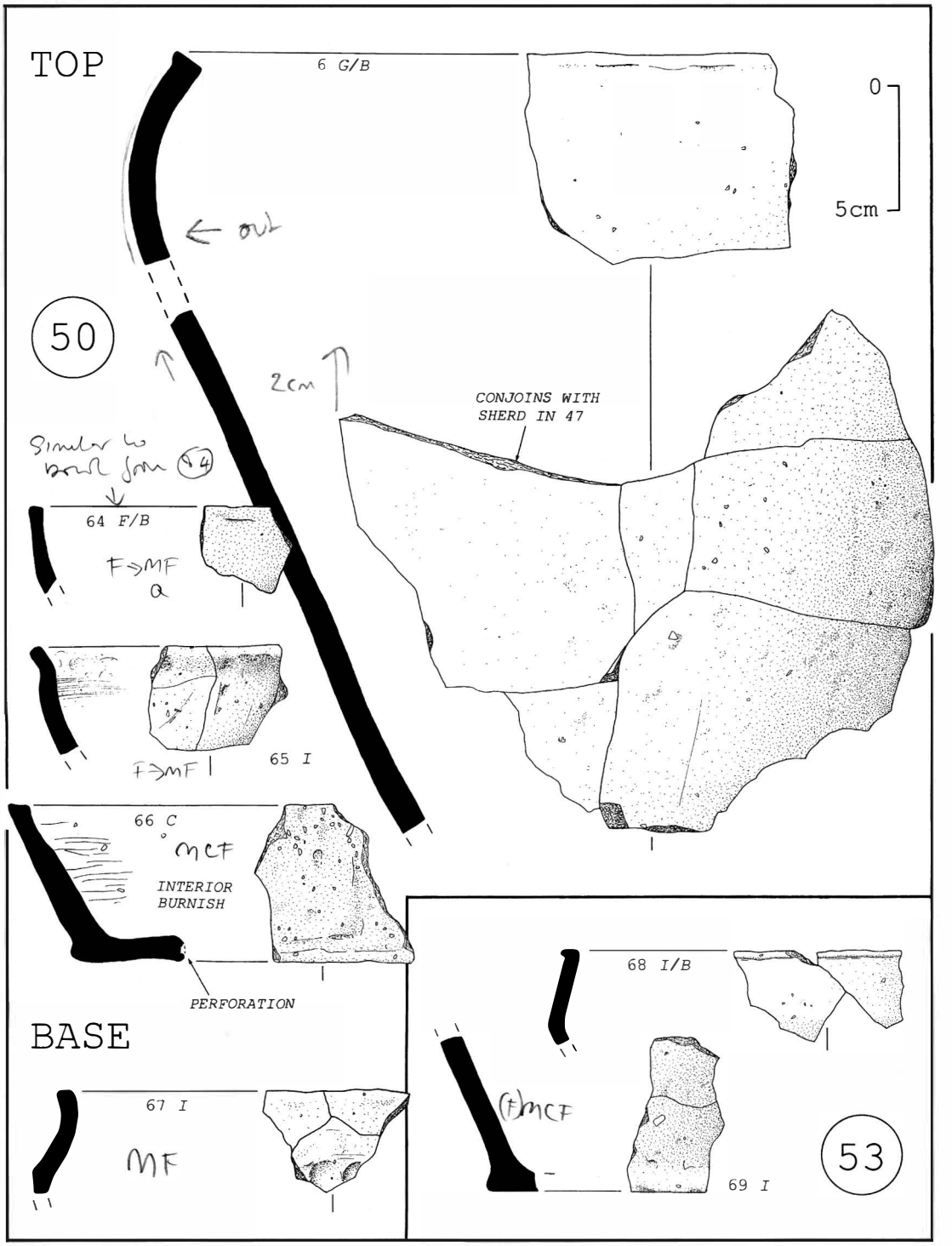

Fig 8. Seaside Field. Stratified Late Bronze Age pottery. B = burnished, C = Coarse, F = fine, G = granitic, I = intermediate. *Drawing*: author

decorated with a series of impressed, horizontal furrows. As a group, these features have no exact parallel, but the decorated shoulder suggests that they belong to a furrowed bowl of a type typically associated with Wessex assemblages.[21] Oolitic fabrics are native to Wessex. Although a furrowed bowl is known from a Sussex early post Deverel-Rimbury assemblage (Kingston Buci),[22] this vessel is the easternmost find of a vessel from a Wessex source.[23]

Pottery Making

A fragment of unfired clay with inclusions of calcined flint similar in size to those present in pottery fabric F was found in context 50. This demonstrates that pottery making occurred on site and given that the fragment *in situ* resembled a rim sherd, it is possible that it was a trial piece. Three other stages in pottery making are postulated. Although the local beach deposits comprise mostly flint, the burnt stone assemblage is dominated by stone of other types. The primary use and therefore what was required of this material is unknown, but its sorting raises the possibility that the flint fraction within it was re-used as tempering. Fabrics with inclusions of stone other than flint are certainly in the minority on site. The selection of a particular type of stone for temper is paralleled by that of greensand-chert for pounders and chalk-flint for other tools. In addition, tools such as the pounders were recovered which might relate to the preparation of this material (cf Runnymede).[24] Two from Seaside Field (fig 9.8, one not illustrated) differ markedly from hammerstones from the same contexts (fig 9 nos 9–11). They are of sub-oval shape, worn on their end faces only and both are split longitudinally. They weigh 400–678g which is compatible with their function. Lastly, several objects of fired but untempered clay were recovered. One of these, from fill 41, is faceted and appears to be part of a rod-shaped object (fig 9.6). Similar finds made in association with pottery wasters of Early Iron Age date at Green Street, Eastbourne, and at early first millennium BC sites at Newhaven and Bishopstone have been interpreted as props for pit kilns,[25] and it is possible that the Seaside Field finds served a similar purpose. The Newhaven and Bishopstone finds have also been discussed in related to the reduction of salt[26] but, unless they too are wasters, or they were broken after having been carried from the sea, the location of these sites at high elevations, places such an interpretation in doubt.

Dating

Although pit 55 appears to have been filled quickly with material derived from a series of near contemporary activities, there is no reason to assume that the material itself is contemporaneous. Owing to the nature of the deposits and the way they were excavated, the condition of the sherds, both in terms of their surfaces and broken edges, is good. This is particularly true of fills 41–78, from which there are sufficient sherds (excluding those which were burnt) to discern the original finishes and condition of most vessels with certainty. Of these, a small number including three bases (figs 5.40, 6.50, 7.58) and a rim (fig 5.36) have worn surfaces. The majority of these have unabraded edges and it is possible that they were old when they were broken. On the other hand, it may reflect different usage and need not have any relevance to the overall chronological integrity of the assemblage. Only a small number of sherds (notably at the interface between the pit's upper fill (fill 36) and the ploughsoil (layer 35)) in fabrics which are associated locally with later, decorated traditions indicate the possibility of contamination in the form of an unrecognized fill of later date at the top of the feature.

Both relative and calendar dating is inhibited by a lack of radiocarbon dated assemblages locally. However, oak charcoal from a small branch or immature tree recovered from the basal fill of pit 55 has produced a date of 2520 ± 40 BP, which calibrates at 95 per cent confidence to 798–414 BC; and a sample of alder charcoal from near the base of fill 40, a date of 2695 ± 45, which calibrates at 95 per cent confidence to 966–798 BC.[27] These dates approximate to those obtained for 'Late Bronze Age' deposits at Runnymede,[28] Shinewater Park[29] and Yapton.[30] On typological grounds pottery from these sites closely compares to the Seaside Field assemblage with the predominance of round over angular shouldered jars, the wide range of types, sizes and individual forms, the rarity of incised decoration and uniformly flat bases. A date for Seaside Field towards the end of this period is suggested by four things. Firstly, the later of the two radiocarbon dates, being from a young tree, may closely approximate to that of the assemblage and is more recent than that of Shinewater Park, itself obtained from young timbers. Secondly, types derived from 'earlier', Deverel-Rimbury traditions such as convex and straight-sided jars are absent (cf Ashington, Ford and Plumpton Plain B).[31] Thirdly, traits of decoration are present which are usually associated with the end of the period. These include the tool impressions on the necks of vessels 18 (fig 3) and 23 (fig 4), a trait which is rare in Britain, but which occurs in France in association with ironworking and the latest Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery assemblages (eg, Choisy-au-Bac),[32] and fingertip impressions on the shoulders and bodies of several vessels (cf Weston Wood, area 1).[33] Additionally, the externally expanded rim of the bipartite bowl, vessel 68 (fig 8), and the possible tripartite form of vessel 27 (fig 4) are rare in undecorated assemblages but common in decorated assemblages (eg, Fengate, Kimmeridge and Minnis Bay),[34] some of which are associated with late radiocarbon dates or are stratigraphically later than undecorated material (see East Beach below). Vessel 68 is the only example of its type and date from West Sussex but it is closely paralleled by a vessel from Runnymede, area 2.[35] West Sussex sites which do not share these characteristics, such as Ashington,[36] Knapp Farm,[37] Kingston Buci[38] and Climping,[39] would be earlier; more angular, decorated assemblages such as those from Chanctonbury Ring,[40] Harting Beacon,[41] East Beach and Stoke Clump[42] would be slightly later, impinging in most cases on the Early Iron Age. Finds more or less contemporary with Seaside Field come from Birdham,[43] Highdown[44] and, possibly, Thundersbarrow Hill.[45] Yapton, which yielded sherds from three incised vessels,[46] may fall between the two groups. Sites such as Park Brow, Findon[47] and Torberry[48] are thought to belong to a slightly later Early Iron Age tradition. In view of the apparent integrity of the Seaside Field assemblage, the furrowed bowl (fig 3.4), a type which in Wessex would usually be associated with decorated assemblages such as that from Potterne,[49] may indicate that undecorated traditions in Sussex and perhaps elsewhere in the south east overlap with decorated traditions further west.

Affinities

For the most frequently found types described above, no purpose is served in identifying individual, typological parallels, since their local character is clearly established by the evidence for local manufacture and by repeated occurrences in assemblages from within the region such as those referred to in the previous section. Flared necks in particular, though occurring outside the region, are very much a Sussex characteristic.

A few vessels help to place the site in a broader, regional context. With the exception of a few sites in the upper Thames valley (eg, Rams Hill),[50] fine hemispherical bowls with inturned rims are restricted in Britain to Sussex (eg, Thundersbarrow Hill),[51] Surrey (Brooklands and

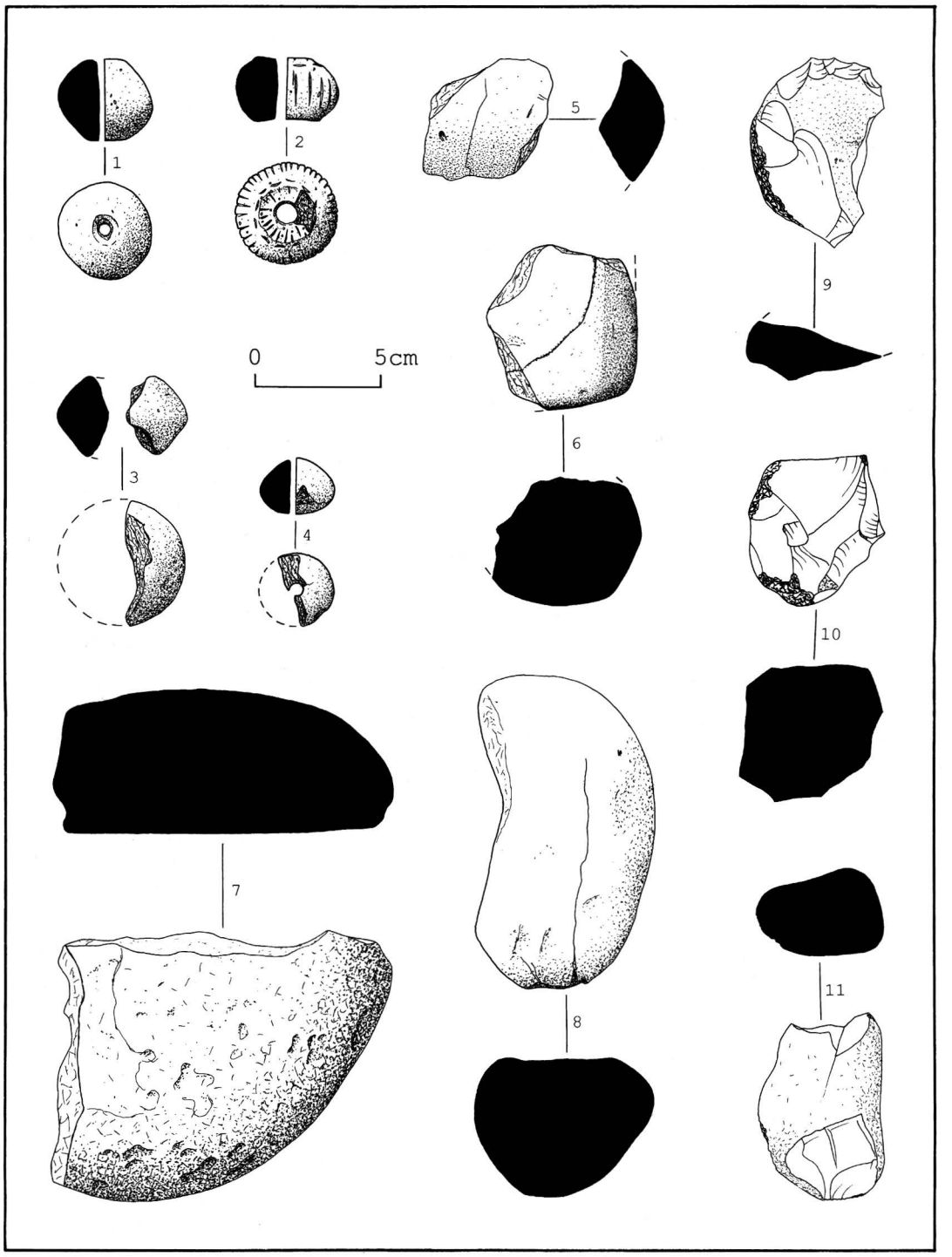

Fig 9. Seaside Field. Finds from pit 55. 1–4, spindlewhorls (tempered clay; 1 is unstratified; 2 fill 53; 3 fill 45; 4 fill 41); 5–6, fired clay 'rods' (untempered; 5 fill 45; 6 fill 41); 7, upper quernstone (granite; fill 45); 8, pounder (greensand chert; fill 45); 9, hammerstone/flake (chalk flint; fill 45); 10, hammerstone (flint core; fill 45); 11, hammerstone (flint beach pebble; fill 45). *Drawing*: author

Runnymede)[52] and Kent (Monkton Court).[53] They are also common in the Low Countries and in France. Rarer and as such a less reliable indicator, very large jars with high, round shoulders and internally bevelled rims like vessel 6 (figs 3, 9) also have a restricted distribution (Slonk Hill and Weston Wood, area 2).[54] By contrast, most vessel types present, including variants of those mentioned such as hemispherical bowls with upright rims, have a wide distribution. In spite of the presence of an import from Wessex, Seaside Field appears to belong to a south-eastern rather than a south-central pottery tradition.

Additionally, some authors highlight a similarity between British post Deverel-Rimbury pottery and contemporary, continental material.[55] At Welling, Kent, 8km south of the Thames, a possible imported vessel of similar form and decoration to Seaside Field's vessel 34 (fig 5), is postulated on the grounds of both decoration and fabric (cf Court-Saint-Étiene, Belgium).[56] Except for fabric O, from Wessex, none of the fabrics present at Seaside Field need have been imported. But as noted above, the decoration of other vessels belongs to a continental, rather than a British repertoire; while *assiettes tronconiques*, though roughly paralleled in a few British contexts (eg, Bridge in Kent, site 5, and Shinewater Park),[57] are common across the Channel, particularly in France (Catenoy 'Camp César', Choisy-au-Bac, Fort Harrouard).[58] Clearly Seaside Field was acquainted with pottery traditions on the continent and it can be inferred that there was a close relationship between the two.

Site Activity

The range of finds from Seaside Field is unique in Sussex but it is closely paralleled in assemblages from early first millennium BC sites elsewhere. Other finds from pit 55 include two whole and two fragmentary spindlewhorls (fig 9 nos 1–4), crucible fragments, one with copper/copper-alloy prills embedded in its surface, part of a granite rubber or quern (fig 9.7), struck flint, including a high proportion from stones with unabraded or only slightly abraded cortices,[59] calcined bone, wood charcoal, charred cereal grains, chaff and weed seeds, and a very small quantity of raw, untempered clay (table 1). No doubt they relate both to everyday subsistence and to craft activities. The concentration of particular categories of material in particular deposits – crucible fragments in fill 36/40, charred material in fill 42, hammerstones and struck flint in fill 45 – suggests the incorporation of material from discrete activities. The recurrence, particularly in those deposits interpreted as deliberate dumps, of stone objects of the same, selected stone types (most frequently burnt sarsen), and of pottery sherds from the same and similar vessels (eg, vessels 36 and 70) suggests that they relate to a single pottery and stone using unit. The implication is that this unit, possibly a single household, was engaged in all the activities represented. Owing to the mixed nature of much of the assemblage, however, few functional relationships can be established; and we are obliged to rest the interpretation of the finds upon external analogues and the objects themselves.

EAST BEACH

The site is situated on the east side of Selsey Bill, less than 1km from Seaside Field (fig 1c). Although more than 200m behind the earliest, historically attested shoreline, it now lies immediately behind the sea wall. In contrast to Seaside Field, the data is of poorer quality. Three test trenches (A, H and J) yielded pottery of early first millennium BC date. In trench H, two features are of interest. These comprise part of an interrupted, curvilinear feature *c* 1m

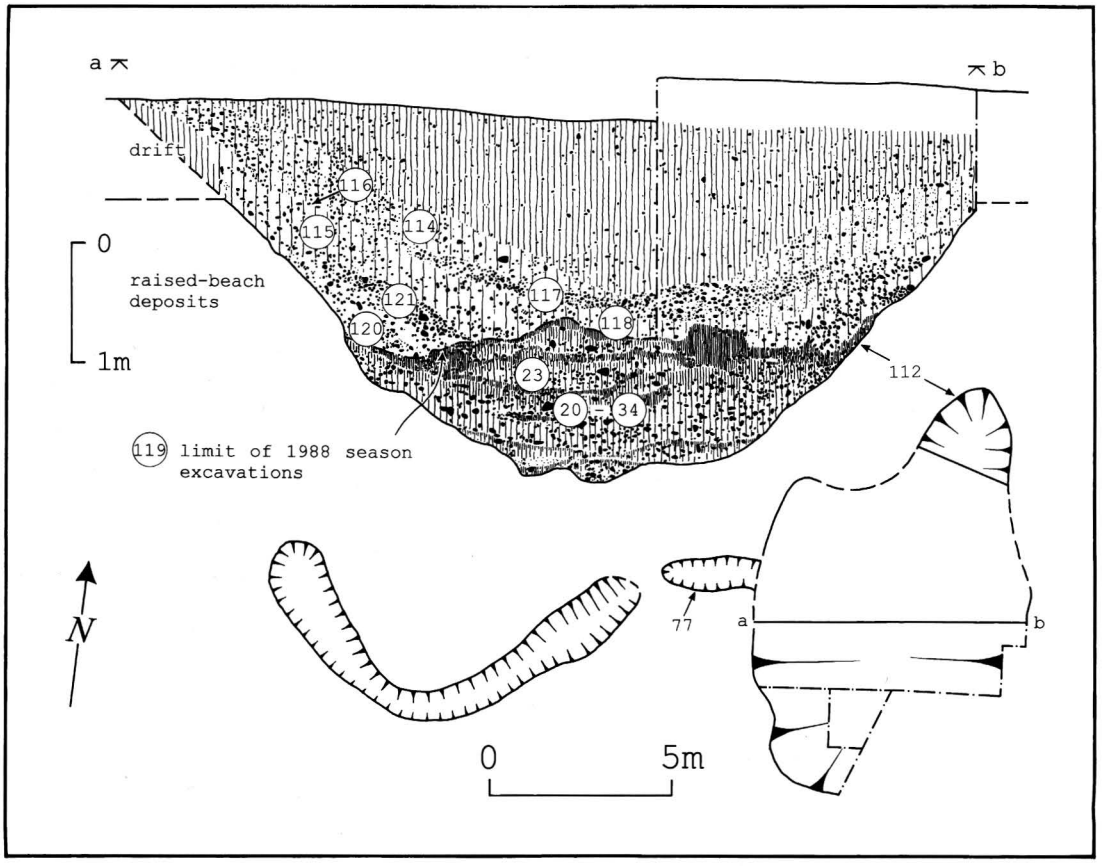

Fig 10. East Beach (after Kenny 1989a, figs 2 and 4; 1989b, figs 19 and 20). Section and plan of pit 112. *Drawing*: author

deep (cut 77) and a very large, sub-oval or lobed feature *c* 3.5m deep with a U-shaped profile (cut 112) (fig 10).

Cut 77 contained two fills. The lower contained burnt stone and two broken, but probably complete, vessels of Deverel-Rimbury type (not illustrated here),[60] the upper fill (78), which probably related to cut 112, a decorated pot sherd of Early Iron Age type (fig 12.7), two struck flints and several burnt stones, including a cobble-sized fragment from a saddle quern of Lodsworth-type Lower Greensand. Although no clear relationship was established, it would appear this feature was truncated by cut 112.[61] Within cut 112 several fills could be distinguished, largely because of differences in their clastic content (fig 10), including layers of water-borne silt so like the 'natural' that they were 'originally mistaken for the bottom of the ditch' (fill 119/20).[62] Perhaps owing to the need to excavate parts by mattock, their extent appears to have been difficult to resolve, and in some cases finds from different layers were bulked (eg, fills 20–34). The finds include pottery (fig 12), struck flint, a high proportion of which resembles the Seaside Field material, two fragments of Kimmeridge-type shale, probably unfinished bangles (fig 11), burnt local stone, a baked clay object, charcoal and both burnt and, of particular interest in view of the low pH, a single, unburnt bone. There was no

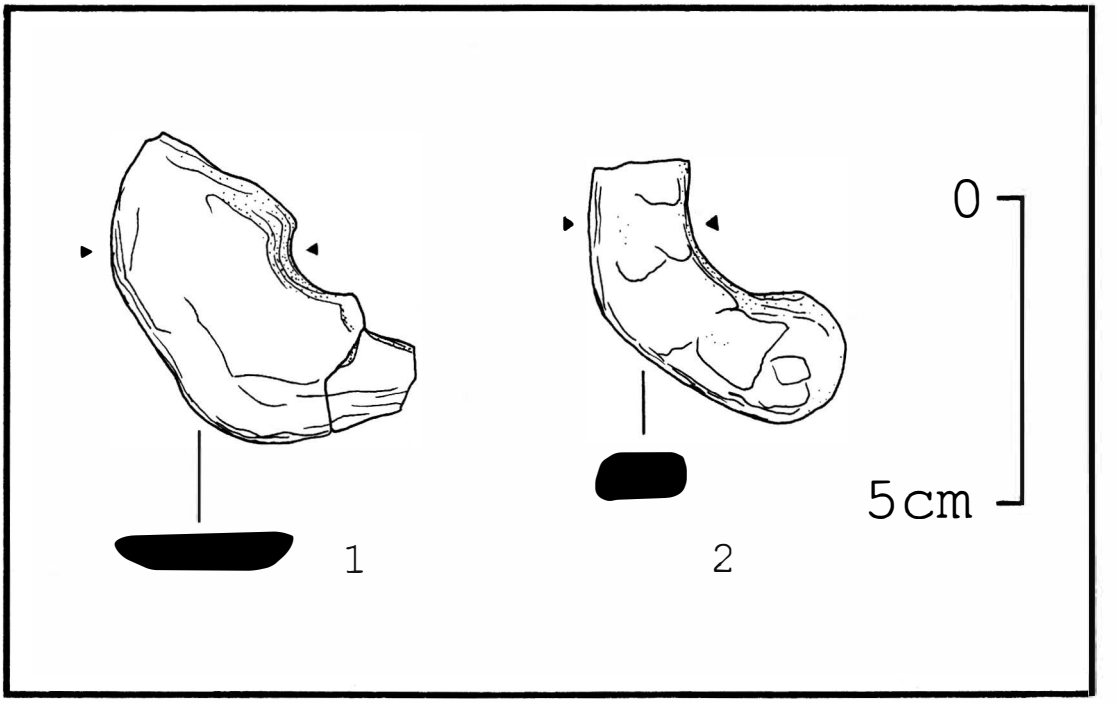

Fig 11. Worked shale from pit 112. 1, fill 115; 2, fills 20–34. *Drawing*: author

evidence, however, for pottery making (the burnt stone, unlike that from Seaside Field, was fully representative of the local gravels), textiles or metalworking. Sherds from the same vessels occurred in several different layers,[63] some of which did not share physical relationships (eg, vessel 13 from fills 115 and 23), and assemblages from several different layers were similar in character. Amongst those layers excavated separately, however, a number yielded very distinct assemblages. Two were without finds (fills 113 and 120), one yielded pottery only (fill 119), one was charcoal-rich (fill 116), and three contained unusually high proportions of struck flint and/or burnt stone (fills 115, 116, see table 3 and fill 68 from cut 77).[64] Finally, there was evidence – in the form of the unburnt bone – of a possible water-logged burial environment towards the base of the feature.

Owing to its U-shaped profile, the excavator considered the feature to be part of a defensive ditch, perhaps belonging to a possible Selsey *oppidum*;[65] while a few sherds of Roman pottery amongst the prehistoric assemblage, apparently in a stratigraphically early position (fill 115), indicated to him that the latter were 'a residue of some earlier activity in the area'.[66] This interpretation, however, is by no means certain. Firstly, the plan of the excavation, though incomplete, does not resemble a ditch (fig 10). Secondly, the finds assemblage as a whole looks prehistoric, not Roman; the early stratigraphic relationships of fill 115 moreover, which may have comprised several fills,[67] are impossible to reconstruct on the final, excavated section (fig 10). Thirdly, the feature bears a striking resemblance to the wells excavated at Stanwell[68] and Seaside Field. Fourthly, its base was almost certainly below the water table. But whatever its primary role, well or ditch, the composition of the layers within it indicates that it too had been filled piecemeal with material derived from different episodes of activity concentrated elsewhere.

Table 3. East Beach. Finds from pit 112, showing relative abundance of finds and cross context relationships. With the exception of a single sherd belonging to vessel 13, finds from fills 20–34 were bulked on excavation. Vessel counts based on earliest occurrence of distinguishable feature sherds

Fill/ context	Finds	Cross-context relationships
113	None	
114	Pottery (1 jar); rare burnt stone and occasional struck flint	115 (vessel 8), 117 (vessel 8)
115	Pottery (*c* 1 or 2 jars); common burnt stone and struck flint; unfinished shale (?) bracelet; calcined bone. Roman pottery	114 (vessel 8), 117 (vessel 8), 118 (vessel 13), 23 (vessel 13)
116	Pottery (*c* 1 bowl); very common struck flint; common wood charcoal; calcined bone	117 (vessel 12)
117	Pottery (*c* 1 bowl, 1 jar); calcined bone	114 (vessel 8), 115 (vessel 8), 116 (vessel 12)
118	Pottery (*c* 1 bowl/jar); occasional burnt stone and struck flint	115 (vessel 13), 23 (vessel 13)
119	Pottery (2 jars – unillustrated heavily gritted base and finger impressed body sherd in intermediate ware)	121 (vessel 15), 20–34 (vessel 15)
120	None	
121	Pottery; rare burnt and struck flint	119 (vessel 15), 20–34 (vessel 15)
20–34	Pottery (*c* 1 bowl, 2 jars); struck flint; burnt stone; unfinished shale (?) bracelet; burnt clay object; unburned bone. Probably incorporates material from 121. Finds not quantifiable owing to bulking of contexts	115 (vessel 13), 118 (vessel 13), 119 (vessel 15), 121 (vessel 15)

In trenches A and J two features are of interest, both linear cuts or ditches (cuts 10 and 63, respectively). Owing to the variable depth of the machine stripping which preceded excavation, it is difficult to be certain of their exact depth, but it is unlikely that they exceeded *c* 0.5m. The fills of both were uniform. The first contained a rim sherd of early first millennium BC pottery (fig 12.6); the second (fill 63) burnt stone (again fully representative of the local gravels) and many sherds of early first millennium BC pottery. The primary role of neither feature is certain but the range and condition of the sherds from the latter suggests that it was used as a deliberate dump and was therefore close to an area utilizing pottery.

The Early Iron Age Pottery Assemblage

Condition

Compared to those from Seaside Field, the sherds comprising the East Beach assemblage are both smaller and, in the case of those recovered from cut 112, more weathered. This can be attributed to several factors. Firstly although a range of fabrics occurred on both sites, the East Beach assemblage comprises more sandy, and therefore friable, fabrics. Secondly soil material adhering to washed sherds from the first season excavations and unwashed sherds from the second season excavation was more indurated than both the fabrics comprising the assemblage, and the sediments filling pit 55. In part this was due to iron precipitation (fig 12.13); but it may also have been due to the baking of finds prior to washing during what was a very hot excavating season.[69] Many finds will also have been excavated with a mattock rather than a trowel, as was the case with all but four contexts (35, 36/40 and 50) at Seaside Field. Finally,

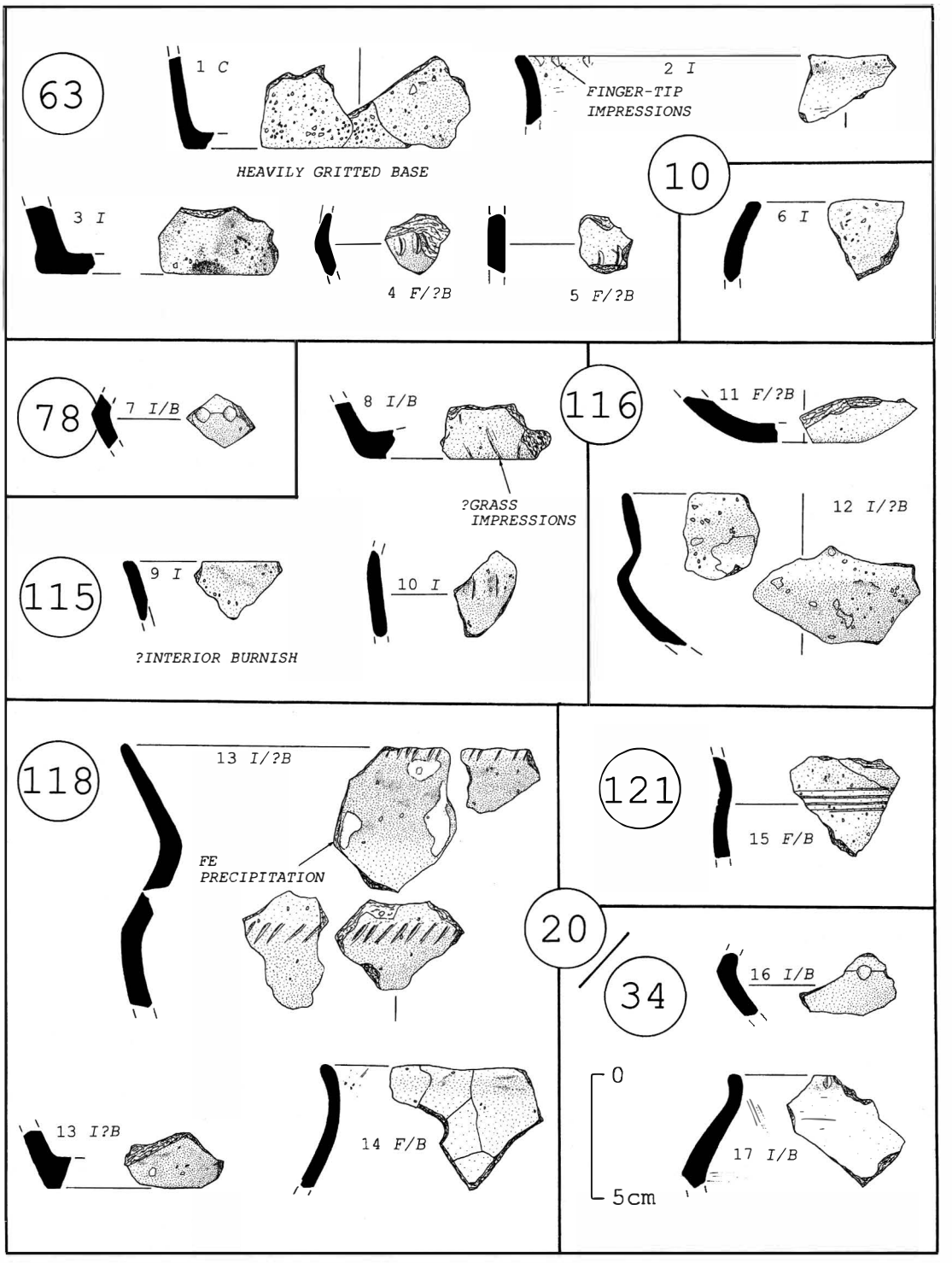

Fig 12. Stratified early first millennium BC pottery from East Beach. B = burnished, C = Coarse, F = fine, I = intermediate. *Drawing*: author

there is the possible disturbance of prehistoric finds,[70] but for reasons discussed above this is not considered likely – the contrast between the East Beach pottery assemblage and that from Seaside Field need be relevant only to the site's development subsequent to deposition, not to its formation in the first place.

Typology, Affinities and Date

Like that from Seaside Field, the assemblage from East Beach belongs to the post Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition.[71] Parallels in Sussex and further afield are abundant. In terms of specific vessel type, however, there is little overlap between the two locations. The Seaside Field assemblage comprises mostly plainwares; whereas East Beach is dominated by vessels displaying incised, (?)excised or fingertip decoration. Although the type range is smaller, it includes a higher proportion of angular vessels. Diagnostic sherds include those from a tripartite shouldered jar with slashed shoulder and rim (fig 12.13), a bipartite shouldered jar with a slightly out-turned and impressed rim (fig 12.17), a narrow shouldered, tripartite bowl (fig 12.12), a grooved vessel (fig 12.15), and the shoulders of two bipartite or tripartite shouldered bowls or jars with identical impressed or (?)excised decoration (fig 12 nos 7 and 16). All of these illustrated sherds are burnished. Also typical of the early first millennium BC are a small, fine, shouldered bowl or jar (fig 12.14), of the same fabric as the grooved vessel, a number of fingered rims (one of which is impressed internally) and bases (fig 12 nos 1 and 3), including two or three which are profusely gritted. Sherds from the narrow shouldered tripartite bowl (vessel 12) retain traces of a red coating, possibly hæmatite or an equivalent. The form of vessel 15 is impossible to reconstruct fully but its grooved decoration, which is square cut and apparently high on a rounded shoulder, can only be paralleled in Britain in Essex[72] and Kent.[73] In terms of form and 'feel', the assemblage's closest Sussex parallel is from Stoke Clump.[74] By analogy with stratified assemblages in the Thames valley and Wessex, such as Ram's Hill,[75] Knights Farm,[76] and Potterne,[77] both can be said to be slightly later than that from Seaside Field (8th–6th centuries BC as opposed to 10th–8th centuries BC).[78] The possible hæmatite coating may also indicate a relatively late date.[79]

SEASIDE FIELD AND EAST BEACH

It is difficult to argue that the differences between Seaside Field and East Beach relate to a difference in function or prosperity. The similarities between them are too extensive. The role of the two major features appears to have been the same; many of the activities represented by their fills – from the selection of flint to the range of pottery types – are similar; and the manner of rubbish disposal within them are the same. The difference, therefore, must be either cultural or chronological. In view of the close proximity of the sites to each other, the latter seems the more likely. This view is consistent with the conventional dating of the two pottery assemblages which, as we have seen, places Seaside Field in the Late Bronze Age and East Beach in the Early Iron Age.

Between these two periods changes occurred both in resource territories and resource strategies at Selsey. Evidence from Seaside Field shows pottery making and metalworking to have taken place on site. The domination of the pottery assemblage at East Beach by fabrics which are rare at Seaside Field, however, suggests something different: either a different source of clay or a different source of finished pottery. In view of the lack of evidence for craft

activities, one should perhaps be thinking in terms of the centralization of these off-site or in different households. At the same time we see an increasing availability of and reliance upon non-local stone resources (Lodsworth stone and shale), and an absence of pottery imports from the West Country.

SELSEY AND THE EARLY FIRST MILLENNIUM BC IN SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND

Overall dating within the early first millennium BC remains difficult. The difference between plainware and decorated assemblages is clear, but there are problems within and at the margins of the two traditions. For example, rescue excavations close to Golf Link's Lane yielded a decorated sherd (fig 13.1) best paralleled in decorated assemblages such as those from Stoke Clump[80] and Highdown;[81] pronounced necks or cavetto zones on vessels from Ford resemble 'earlier', undecorated material from Golf Link's Lane,[82] but the site also yielded bases with footrings, and two Park Brow/Caesar's Camp group bowls,[83] which are thought to be later. If these sites were long-lived or reoccupied, as seems likely, it is possible that some material from them, attributed to one period, relates to another. Other probable mixed assemblages include Highdown[84] (Late Bronze Age and latest Late Bronze Age), Muntham Court, Findon (latest Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age),[85] Wickbourne, Littlehampton,[86] Rustington[87] and Slonk Hill[88] (Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age). Additionally, although trends are discernible, data from sites like Coast Guard Station which have yielded only a few sherds should be treated with caution.[89]

Resource Procurement

Pottery

While most contemporary Sussex pottery appears to be of local origin, the movement of pottery or clay during the early first millennium BC is seen in the wide distribution, primarily within East Sussex, of a distinct fineware with abundant quartz sand and pisolithic iron oxide inclusions which occurs in assemblages from Beddingham,[90] Bishopstone,[91] Varley Hall, Brighton,[92] the Caburn[93] and Hollingbury.[94] West Sussex outliers occurred at Steyning[95] and Chanctonbury Ring.[96] It is thought that the clay used in this pottery originated in the Weald.[97] It is not clear, however, if this represents trade *per se* or a broadening of resource territories. Either way, it represents an increased investment in pottery making which can hardly have occurred without some craft specialization. The present dating of these assemblages would suggest that this began in the earliest Late Bronze Age and continued throughout the early first millennium BC, although, as already suggested, the dating of some, typologically 'early' sites must remain open.

Similar intra-regional developments in West Sussex are evinced by a proliferation of fine sandy wares present only on latest Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age sites such as East Beach and possibly by the lack of evidence for local craft activities at East Beach. If it occurred, craft specialization on the coastal plain was a late development. In West Sussex, however, as in Hampshire and further into Wessex, there are occurrences of non-local material on Late Bronze Age sites. These include oolitic ware from Andover,[98] a sherd in a fabric similar to Seaside Field's fabric G from Highdown,[99] a fabric incorporating lava from Norton

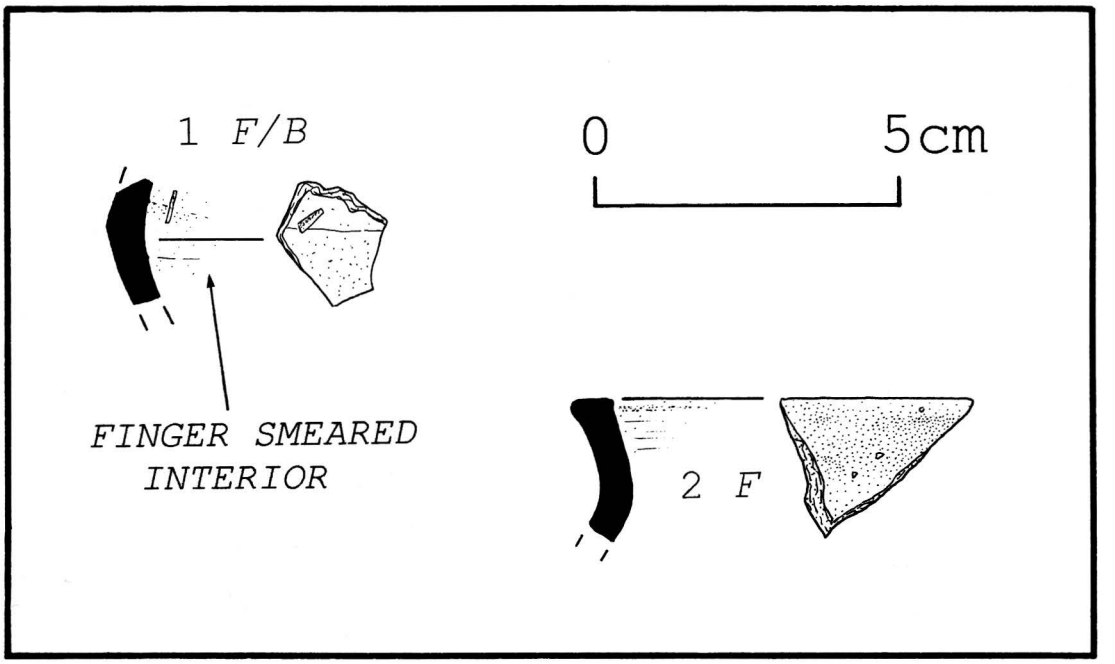

Fig 13. Stratified early first millennium BC pottery from the Golf Link's Lane area (feature 3). B = burnished, F = fine *Drawing*: author

Fitzwarren,[100] oolitic ware from Potterne[101] and fabric O from Seaside Field. The finds from Norton Fitzwarren and Potterne represent the beginning of a trend similar to that identified in East Sussex: both fabric types become more abundant over time. Those from Highdown, Andover and Seaside Field are one-offs. Thus, although neither region was demonstrably involved in craft specialization, both benefited from it through their involvement in far-reaching exchange networks. Much the same might be inferred of the foreign pottery types present at Seaside Field and other sites.

Stone

Specialized procurement within Sussex is also indicated by the distribution of two stone types: shale, usually attributed to a Kimmeridge source; and a cherty Lower Greensand from the Lodsworth area of West Sussex. In addition to the East Beach rough-outs, Sussex finds of shale include finished objects from Bullock Down, Eastbourne,[102] Shinewater Park,[103] and the Caburn, outside Lewes;[104] and they have been found as far afield as Runnymede[105] and Deal.[106] Objects of Lodsworth Stone, though more common, are less widespread. Sussex findspots include Rummages Barn, Binderden,[107] Climping,[108] Harting Beacon,[109] Lavant,[110] Wickbourne, Littlehampton,[111] Park Brow,[112] Selsey East Beach (above) and Coast Guard Station;[113] and it has even been identified further afield at Runnymede,[114] Southampton and Green Lane, Farnham.[115] Finds of Lower Greensand from the same general area (west of the river Arun) come from Bishopstone, in East Sussex,[116] Birdham[117] and Slonk Hill.[118] These finds straddle the early first millennium BC.

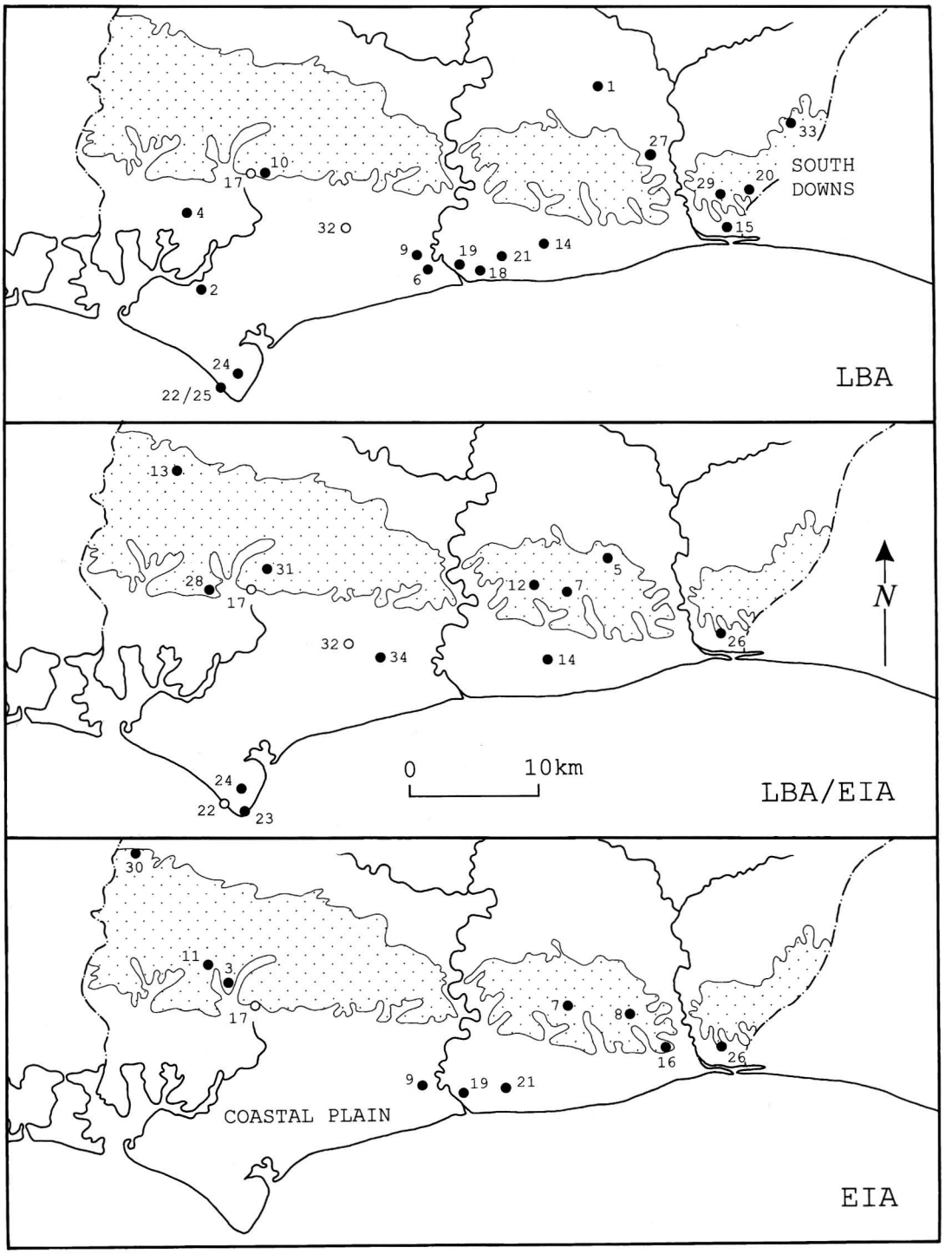

Fig 14. Settlement in West Sussex during the early first millennium BC showing Late Bronze Age assemblages, latest Late Bronze Age, earliest Early Iron Age assemblages and Early Iron Age assemblages. Open circles indicate early first millennium BC assemblages from which insufficient diagnostic sherds have been identified for secure dating within the period (for references see Appendix). *Drawing*: author

Neither shale nor Lower Greensand was present at Seaside Field. It is possible that the activity with which these materials were associated was not represented in the features examined, or they may have been too expensive, or in the part of pit 55 lost to the sea. On the other hand, it is possible that in terms of demonstrable trade and craft specialization Selsey was not integrated with the source areas until later. In the case of Lodsworth Stone this view is recommended by three things: firstly, the early coastal plain sites at which it has been identified, Climping and Wickbourne, are immediately down river of the Lodsworth-Peterborough area; secondly, few other contemporary Wealden imports have been identified from the area; thirdly, foreign pottery types and expanded-terminal bangles in gold (associated with a Carps Tongue sword at Beachy Head, Eastbourne), present on sites near the coast, are not present further inland.[119]

Settlement

Although there is evidence for Middle Bronze Age activity on the coastal plain in the form of metalwork finds and burials, the Late Bronze Age marks the beginning of identifiable settlement. In particular, the provision of very deep features, such as Selsey's wells, represents an investment in time and effort not previously seen. These also occur in Surrey (Stanwell),[120] Essex (Lofts Farm),[121] possibly elsewhere on the coastal plain (Climping)[122] and north Kent (Swalecliffe).[123] Settlement on downland areas is also innovatory. Hillforts begin to make an impression on the landscape with two types of occupation represented: that at Chanctonbury Ring and Harting Beacon was slight; while that at Highdown and Hollingbury was varied and intense.[124] Although the occupation of the coastal plain can be dated to the beginning of the early first millennium BC, in many areas it continued or reoccurred later. By contrast, early first millennium BC occupation of downland sites – at least in West Sussex – tended to be later (fig 14). Such sites may have formed a conduit between the Weald and the coastal plain.

These developments are paralleled further afield by the occupation of new categories of site such as ring forts (Deal),[125] islands (Runnymede)[126] and wetland platforms (Shinewater Park);[127] and the development of large middens (Potterne).[128] Additionally, an increasing number of downland and other sites have evidence for four-posthole structures. Sussex locations include Bishopstone,[129] Harting Beacon,[130] Slonk Hill[131] and Muntham Court.[132] Muntham Court also incorporated a pit *c* 1.2m deep.[133] These feature types, which also occur on early first millennium BC downland sites in Kent (Sandway),[134] Surrey (Hawks Hill)[135] and Hampshire (Charlton),[136] are traditionally equated with grain storage and may indicate an increase in, or a reordering of, resources. Sites such as Selsey, also produce evidence for an increased range of activities, although this may be a function of the new types of catchment areas available rather than of the activities taking place.

CONCLUSION

Although the material culture of much of Britain and the continent during the early first millennium BC shows that they belonged to the same, widespread cultural horizon,[137] it was a period of diversity and change. During the period new environments were exploited. There was a greater investment in social infrastructure, indicative perhaps of larger or more permanent populations. Resources were invested in domestic luxury, such as fineware pottery. At the same time, or possibly slightly later,[138] there was a conspicuous loss or consumption of metalwork, some certainly of a 'ritual' nature, reflecting wealth, stress or a new technology. The management of agricultural resources changed and specialized procurement/craft

specialization was integrated at a regional level. All this requires explanation. At Selsey there is a temptation to relate it to the sites' coastal positions: they may have functioned as entrepôts. No doubt this would have created a demand for inland products and thus fuelled development. In view of the almost complete lack of evidence for the movement of goods from the coast inland, however, and the relative scarcity of demonstrable imports at Selsey such a view is difficult to sustain. Alternatively, and perhaps more likely, the new types of cultural adaptation may have had more vitality – or been under greater stress – than their predecessors. In terms of locally available resources, populations or communities were getting bigger. Owing to the chronological difficulties highlighted above, it is difficult to identify this with certainty, but in Sussex, towards the end of the Late Bronze Age, there is an impression of a filling-out of the landscape from the coastal plain inland. This would have created the potential for economies of scale, in agriculture and craft production. Integration, involving the realization of this potential in an exchange of surplus goods, was the result.

APPENDIX: EARLY FIRST MILLENNIUM BC SITES IN WEST SUSSEX

Site no (figs 1, 14)	Site name	National Grid Ref	Provisional date/s	Sources
1	America Wood, Ashington	TQ 134164	LBA	Priestly-Bell 1995
2	Birdham	SU 824000	LBA	L Barber, S Hamilton pers comm (unpubl excavations, Field Archaeology Unit, UCL)
3	Rummages Barn, Binderden	SU 847113	EIA/possibly LBA	Kenny 1985; site archive, Chichester District Museum
4	Knapp Farm, Bosham	SU 020061	LBA	Gardiner and Hamilton 1997
5	Chanctonbury Ring	TQ 139121	LBA-EIA	Hamilton 1980
6	Ford Acres, Climping	SU 999022	LBA	L Barber pers comm, Seager Thomas in prep (unpubl excavations, Field Archaeology Unit, UCL)
7	Muntham Court, Findon	TQ 109095	LBA-EIA/EIA	Burstow and Holleyman 1957; S Hamilton pers comm
8	Park Brow, Findon	TQ 154089	EIA	Wolesley and Smith 1924
9	Ford (aerodrome site)	SU 994033	LBA/EIA	S Hamilton and C Plaice, pers comm; site archive, Littlehampton Museum (unpubl excavations, RPS Consultants)
10	Carne's Seat, Goodwood	SU 887094	LBA	Holgate 1986
11	Goose Hill Camp	SU 830126	EIA	Boyden 1956
12	Harrow Hill	TQ 082100	LBA-EIA	Hamilton and Manley 1997
13	Harting Beacon	SU 808183	LBA-EIA	Bedwin 1979a
14	Highdown	TQ 093044	LBA/ LBA-EIA	Wilson 1940; S Hamilton pers comm (unpubl excavations, Field Archaeology Unit, UCL)
15	Kingston Buci	TQ 234057	LBA	Curwen and Hawkes 1931

(*continued*)

Appendix table continued

Site no (figs 1, 14)	Site name	National Grid Ref	Provisional date/s	Sources
16	Lancing Down	TQ 177066	EIA	Frere 1940
17	Lavant	SU 868095	possibly LBA/EIA	Site archive, Chichester District Museum; J Kenny, pers comm (unpubl excavations, Chichester District Archaeological Unit)
18	Gosden Road area, Littlehampton	TQ 039026	LBA	Bedwin 1979b; Gilkes 1993; site archive, Littlehampton Museum
19	Wickbourne, Littlehampton	TQ 023027	LBA/EIA	Gilkes 1993; site archive, Littlehampton Museum
20	Mile Oak, Portslade	TQ 251078	LBA	S Hamilton, M Russell, pers comm (unpubl excavations, Field Archaeology Unit, UCL)
21	Rustington	TQ 060031	LBA/EIA	Rudling 1990
22	Coast Guard Station, Selsey	SU 845930	LBA/ possibly LBA-EIA	Seager Thomas 1998
23	East Beach, Selsey	SU 859924	LBA-EIA	Kenny 1989a, 1989b; site archive, Chichester District Museum; J Kenny pers comm (unpubl excavations, Chichester District Archaeological Unit)
24	Golf Link's Lane, Selsey	approx SU 857942	LBA/ LBA-EIA	White 1934; site archive, Chichester District Museum (unpubl excavations, Chichester District Archaeological Unit)
25	Seaside Field, Selsey	SU 844932	LBA	Seager Thomas 1998
26	Slonk Hill, Shoreham	TQ 226065	LBA-EIA/EIA	Hartridge 1978; site archive, Brighton Museum
27	Testers, Steyning	TQ 175111	LBA	Hamilton 1988
28	Stoke Clump	SU 833094	LBA-EIA	Cunliffe 1966
29	Thundersbarrow Hill	TQ 229084	LBA	Hamilton 1993; 2000; Hamilton and Manley 1997
30	Torberry	SU 779204	EIA	Cunliffe 1976
31	The Trundle	SU 877111	LBA-EIA	Curwen 1929
32	Westergate	SU 940054	LBA/ possibly LBA-EIA	S Hamilton pers comm (unpubl excavations, Field Archaeology Unit, UCL)
33	Wolstonbury	TQ 284138	LBA	Hamilton and Manley 1997
34	Yapton	SU 964044	LBA-EIA	Hamilton 1987

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NOTES

1. Barrett 1980, 303.
2. Eg, Hamilton and Manley 1997.
3. Thomas 1989.
4. Bradley 1996, 42.
5. Bedwin 1979a.
6. Seager Thomas 1998b. Finds from Seaside Field will be deposited in Chichester District Museum.
7. See Aldsworth 1987, 42. Inland, where the marine gravels of the coastal plain overlie impermeable Tertiary deposits, they are usually aquiferous.
8. O'Connell 1990, 41.
9. Morris 1991, 279.
10. Hill 1994, 4. For later Bronze Age examples see Brück, forthcoming.
11. Kenny 1989a, 15.
12. Morris 1978b.
13. Hamilton 1997b, 80; S Hamilton pers comm (eg, vessels 41 and 45: unpublished excavations, RPS Consultants); White 1934, 42.
14. Barrett 1980.
15. Greatorex 2000; S Hamilton pers comm.
16. Both of these characteristics may inhibit the absorption of liquids (cf Rice 1987, 323).
17. Norris and Burstow 1950, 44, pl 1.7; Worsfold 1943, 36, fig 6.4.
18. Desittere 1968, 32, fig 16.
19. Barrett 1980, 304, fig 5.3.
20. Cf Macpherson-Grant 1980, 149. These vessels are also known as *jattes*.
21. Needham 1995, 164.
22. Curwen and Hawkes 1931, 194, fig 15.
23. Morris 1994, 374.
24. Needham and Spence 1996, 163.
25. Hamilton 1993, 46.
26. Bell 1977, 122.
27. Context 40: lab no AA-40933(GU-9226); context 53: lab no AA-40932(GU-9225). All radiocarbon dates are calibrated using the CALIB programme of Stuiver and Reimer (1993) using the intercept method and bi-decadal data set.
28. Longley 1980, 72, fig 47.
29. Cal BC 907–546 (2630 ± 70 BP), cal BC 920–780 (2655 ± 50 BP), cal BC 904–800 (2690 ± 35 BP) (Greatorex 2000; Needham *et al* 1997, 97).
30. Cal BC 920–797 (2600 ± 70 BP) (Hamilton 2000).
31. Hamilton 1994, 43, fig 8; S Hamilton pers comm (vessels 18 and 50: unpublished excavations, RPS Consultants); Hawkes 1935, 48, figs 6, 50, 9, 51, 10m.
32. Talon 1987, 255, 261.
33. Russell 1989, 28.
34. Hawkes and Fell 1945, 208, fig 5; Cunliffe and Phillipson 1968, 232, fig 23; Worsfold 1943, 36, fig 6.1.
35. Longley 1980, 59, fig 37.421.
36. Hamilton 1994.
37. Hamilton 1997b.
38. Curwen and Hawkes 1931.
39. Seager Thomas in prep (unpublished excavations Field Archaeology Unit, University College London (UCL)).
40. Hamilton 1993.
41. Hamilton 1979.
42. Cunliffe 1966.
43. S Hamilton pers comm (unpublished excavations Field Archaeology Unit, UCL).
44. Wilson 1940.
45. Hamilton 2000.
46. Hamilton 1997b, 59–60, figs 4–5.
47. Wolesley and Smith 1924, 353.
48. Cunliffe 1976.
49. Gingell and Lawson 1985, 106, fig 4.
50. Barrett 1975, 99, fig 3.5.
51. Hamilton 2000.
52. Hanworth and Tomalin 1977, 34, fig 22.194; Longley 1980, 63, fig 41.528.
53. Macpherson-Grant 1994, 267, fig 11.
54. Morris 1978a, 113, fig 17.180; Russell 1989, 36, fig 23.231.
55. Cunliffe 1980, 174–5; Couldrey 1988, 44.
56. Couldrey 1988, 45–6, fig 3.1; Desittere 1968, 116, fig 100.7.
57. Macpherson-Grant 1980, 149, fig 11.62; S Hamilton pers comm.

58. Blanchet and Talon 1987, 200, fig 10.9; Talon 1987, 264, fig 10.8; Mohen and Bailloud 1987.
59. Although a broken blade from fill 40/41 and a retouched flake from fill 49 may be residual, the assemblage's direct artefactual associations (table 1), its unabraded condition, its typology (cf Young and Humphrey 1999, 232–3) and the likely fashioning of that from fill 45 from a few stones only, indicate that for the most part it is contemporary with the rest of the finds assemblage. The Seaside Field flintwork differs from other Late Bronze Age flintwork (ibid) in its use of quality raw materials.
60. Kenny 1989a, 15, fig 5.2–3.
61. Kenny 1989a, 5.
62. Kenny 1989b, 39.
63. Kenny 1989a, 17.
64. Kenny 1989a, 12–14.
65. See Bedwin 1983, 40–2.
66. Kenny 1989a, 10; 1989b, 39.
67. The excavator's original drawing of pit 112 shows fill 115 to have been both above and below fill 116 (Kenny 1989a, 11, fig 4).
68. O'Connell 1990, 41.
69. J Kenny pers comm.
70. Kenny 1989a, 10.
71. Barrett 1980.
72. Barrett and Bond 1988, 33, fig 23.95.
73. Macpherson-Grant 1994, 282, fig 20.
74. Cunliffe 1966.
75. Barrett 1975.
76. Bradley *et al* 1980.
77. Gingell and Lawson 1985, 104.
78. Cf Barrett 1980, 311.
79. Morris 1994, 375.
80. Cunliffe 1966, 100.
81. Wilson 1940, 194, fig 4c.
82. S Hamilton pers comm (vessel 22, unpublished excavations, RPS Consultants); White 1934, 43.
83. S Hamilton pers comm (vessels 47, 52 and 58, unpublished excavations, RPS Consultants).
84. Wilson 1940.
85. S Hamilton pers comm.
86. The Wickbourne site is published as Early Iron Age (Gilkes 1993, 5) but, although the pottery assemblage incorporates a few sherds in the so-called Park Brow/Caesar's Camp group style (including a pedestal bowl from pit 3), it is dominated by types currently thought to belong to the earliest Late Bronze Age.
87. Rudling 1990.
88. Morris 1978a.
89. Coast Guard Station has yielded a handful of feature sherds of Late Bronze Age date. *Contra* Seager Thomas 1998b, however, the presence amongst the assemblage of fine sandy fabrics similar to those from East Beach suggest that some of the features identified are later than Seaside Field. None was fully excavated. The finds from the Coast Guard Station site will be deposited in Chichester District Museum.
90. Unpublished excavations, Field Archaeology Unit, UCL.
91. Hamilton 1977, 90.
92. Hamilton 1997a, 37.
93. Drewett and Hamilton 1999, 21.
94. Hamilton 1984, 57.
95. Hamilton 1988, 64.
96. Hamilton 1980, 200.
97. Hamilton 1993.
98. Davies 1981, 91.
99. S Hamilton pers comm (unpublished excavations, Field Archaeology Unit, UCL).
100. Woodward 1989, 47.
101. Morris 1991, 285.
102. Bedwin 1982, 88.
103. C Greatorex pers comm.
104. Wilson 1939, 196.
105. Longley 1980, 31.
106. Champion 1980, 237.
107. Ditch layer 5 (Kenny 1985, 66).
108. Seager Thomas in prep (unpublished excavations Field Archaeology Unit, UCL). Though from nearby, the Climping find is probably from slightly to the east of the quarries published by Peacock (1987) and Seager Thomas (1998a).
109. Peacock 1987, 78.
110. Posthole 452 and pit 1037, unpublished excavations, Chichester District Archaeological Unit. Both features contain Late Bronze Age pottery types.
111. Gilkes 1993, 13.
112. Peacock 1987, 78.
113. Seager Thomas 1998b, 17–18.
114. Higbee 1996, 165.
115. Peacock 1987, 67.
116. Bell 1977, 124–6.
117. Seager Thomas in prep (unpublished excavations Field Archaeology Unit, UCL).
118. Pits 19 and 48 (Hartridge 1978).
119. Taylor 1980, 162; Curwen 1954, 207–8. The coastal distribution of this material in Sussex may relate to the distribution of contemporary occupation. It has been suggested, however, that its coastal distribution is analogous

to that of Late Bronze Age weaponry in the Thames valley, ie it was ritually motivated (Hamilton 2000). If so, its dating – and its relevance to the present argument – must remain open. Evidence for coastal erosion both at Selsey and Beachy Head, and finds of expanded terminal bracelets at Patcham (Curwen 1954, 208), inland of Brighton, conflict with this view.

120. O'Connell 1990, 41.
121. Brown 1988, 263.
122. G Bishop pers comm (unpublished excavations, Field Archaeology Unit, UCL).
123. R Masefield pers comm (unpublished excavations, RPS Consultants).
124. Hamilton and Manley 1997, 95–7.
125. Champion 1980.
126. Needham and Spence 1996.
127. Greatorex 2000.
128. Gingell and Lawson 1985.
129. Bell 1977, 71.
130. Bedwin 1978, 229, fig 3.
131. Hartridge 1978, 74.
132. Burstow and Holleyman 1957, 101.
133. Burstow and Holleyman 1957, 101. Further examples of both types of feature – currently undated but possibly belonging to an early first millennium BC occupation of the site – were present at Lavant (unpublished excavations, Chichester District Archaeological Unit).
134. [Glass] 2000, 453.
135. Hastings 1965, 7–8 (pits 8, 10 and 11).
136. Cunliffe 1976, 33.
137. Barrett 1980; Burgess 1968; Adkins and Needham 1985, 46.
138. See Needham *et al* 1997, 93.

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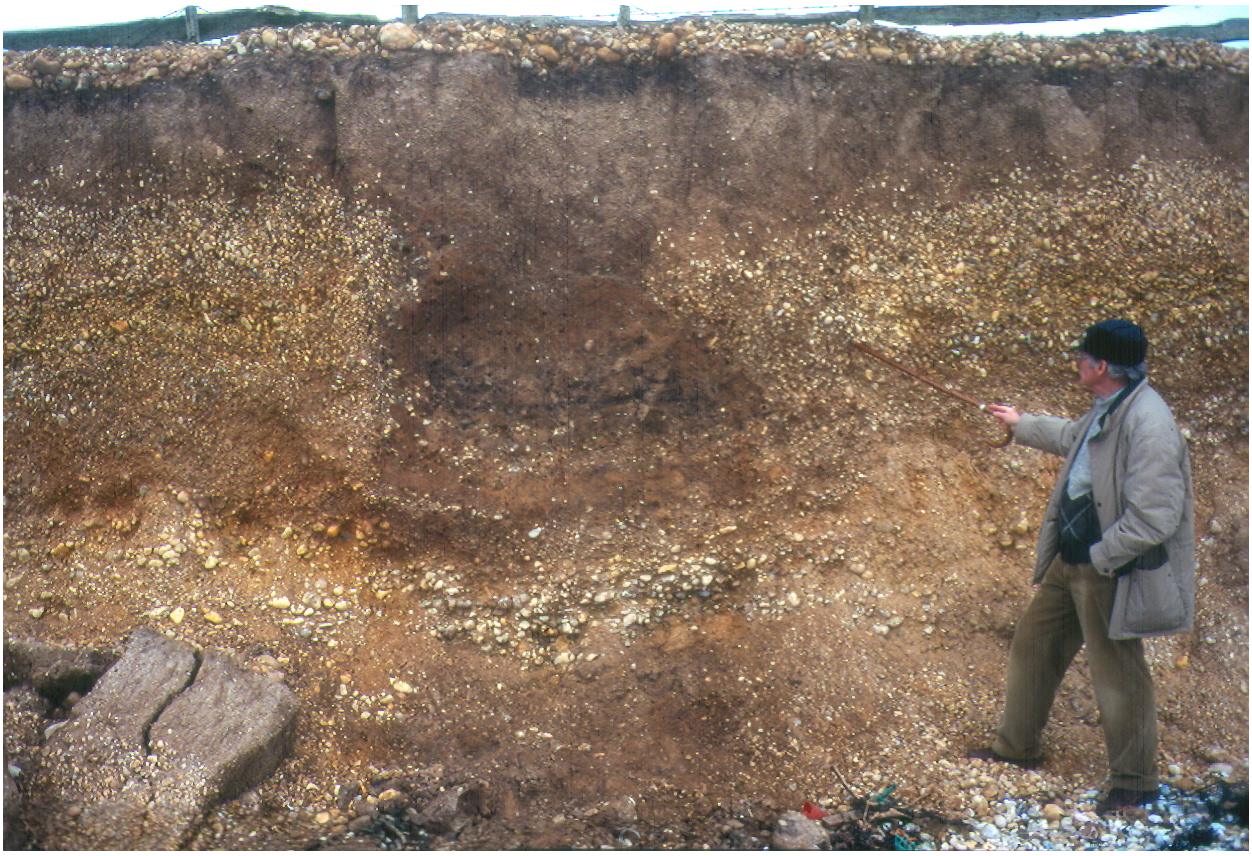
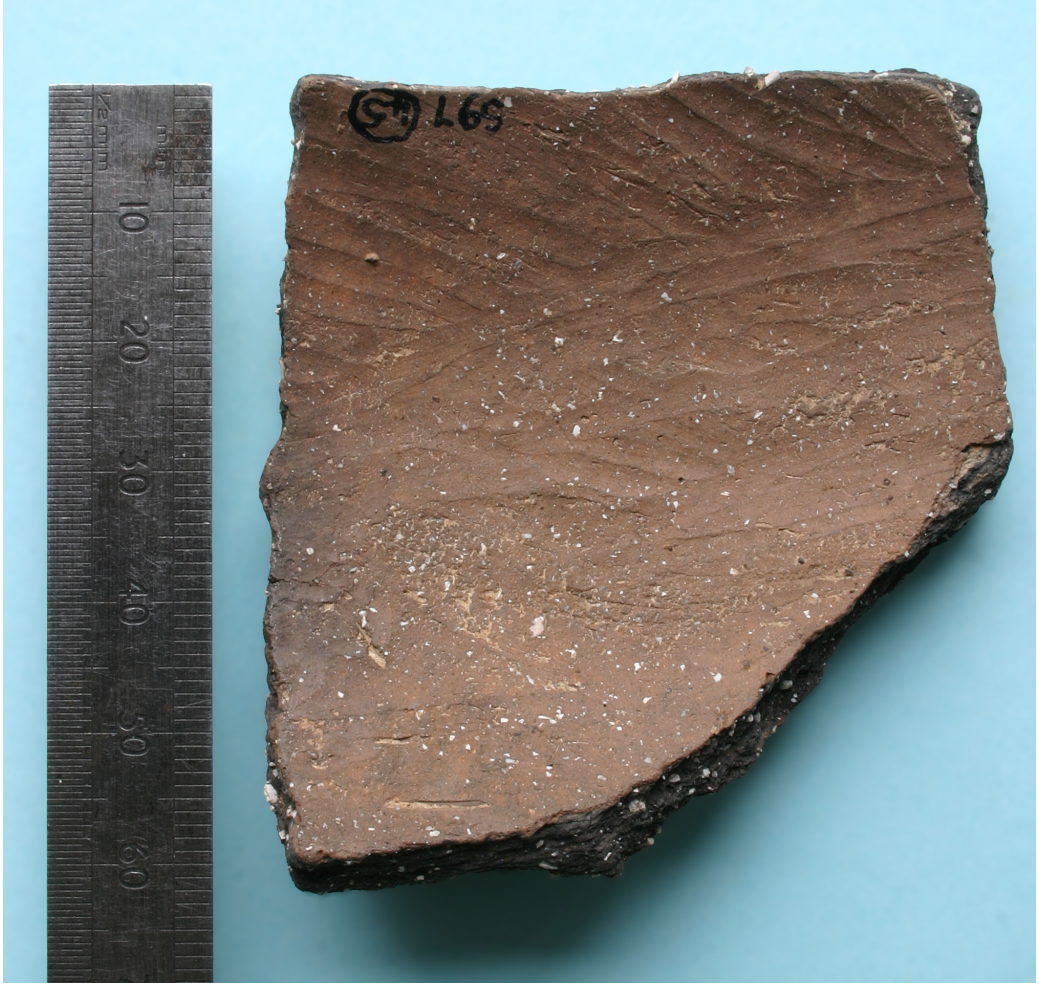


Pit 55

Pot 34



greensand chert pounder

granite quern (lower — working — surface)

granite quern (upper surface)